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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

COUNTERPROPAGANDA WORK IN MILITARY DISTRICTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Col A. Pinchuk and Maj N. Belan, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents: "Mastering the Art of Counterpropaganda"]

[Text] It seems not at all that long ago that the methods coordinating council on counterpropaganda created under the political directorate of the Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District took its first steps. But over half a year has passed. Within this time the council has become the district's unique center of an evolving unified system of counterpropaganda. The need for such a system--a well conceived, dynamic and effective one--was stated at the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

Reported below is one of its regular meetings, in which officers representing some of the units participated. They were invited so that the results of what has been done could be discussed and the future could be outlined jointly.

Colonel A. Luk'yanov, chief, propaganda and agitation department, and deputy chief of the district's political directorate: The subject matter with which our council deals requires constant development and, I would say, effective determination of new points of application of the strength of communists. But to start with, let us consider some of the results. What has been done since the June plenum? First of all, our council itself came into being. On its recommendation the subject of counterpropaganda has been separated out as an independent direction in the political departments and in every party organization, and the best trained communists have started taking a part in it. Though let me qualify that we are concurrently working to see that counterpropaganda accents are present in all mass political measures.

To go on, sections dealing with the pressing problems of the ideological struggle and counterpropaganda have been organized in unofficial lecture groups, in agitation and propaganda collectives and in agitation and propaganda groups, while lectures on these problems have been organized in district and garrison officers clubs. Counterpropaganda offices have been set up in almost all of the

units, for which the council deserves considerable credit once again. It was precisely it that originated the idea of, and drew up the methodological recommendations on, creating and making these offices official, offices in which the necessary reference literature and technical propaganda resources are concentrated and in which active members are trained. The district newspaper is dealing significantly more actively with counterpropaganda issues. We have established close creative ties with Leningrad Television, and jointly with it we are broadcasting special programs--that is, our audience has widened, and it now includes preconscripsts.

This is the new thing that has appeared in our practice following the party central committee's June plenum, and together with the already known forms of indoctrination, it is a component of the basic elements of the counterpropaganda system. Now the main thing to do is to raise its effectiveness, to make this system flexible and to improve it constantly, especially in certain of its elements such as the regiment, the battalion and the company.

Colonel Ye. Shevchenko, district political directorate employee: First off I would like to emphasize the following basic points. The party committees, emphasized Comrade K. U. Chernenko, must have a clear understanding of what the enemy is trying to parade before us and by which channels, and they must offer a prompt and substantiated rebuttal to his attacks. What does this mean we need to do. We must arm propagandists even more actively with a knowledge of the basic directions of ideological sabotage.

Captain 1st Rank V. Mal'kov, chief, department of Marxism-Leninism, philosophy and scientific communism, Military Communications Academy imeni S. M. Budenny: But are the basic directions really enough? Today we must also delve more deeply, widely and thoroughly into how our enemies operate, into what methods and techniques they use. As an example their arsenal includes misinformation, discrediting administrative organs, public organizations, political measures, concrete individuals, theories and viewpoints, the "barrage" method--that is, distracting public opinion from political realities of the day or from some particular event, rumors and the "theft of slogans." When you know this dirty kitchen, it is easier to unmask its "chefs."

Colonel Ye. Shevchenko: That's true. And it was a good thing that during the fall meeting of the district's official propagandists we conducted a special seminar in which we explained how to conduct counterpropaganda in political lessons: This helped the people a great deal. I myself visited the units, and persuaded myself of this. Scientific-practical conferences on the unique features of today's ideological struggle, held in the units and formations under the sponsorship of the council and with the participation of its members, were also useful. And now I agree that we must subject the actions and operating methods of bourgeois propaganda to detailed analysis, and to dig deeper, as they say.

Guards Lieutenant Colonel A. Markhay, unit deputy chief of political affairs: I would like to bring up the following example. Our unit was visited by members of the council, who delved deeply into the directions and procedures of counterpropaganda, participated in a seminar for political lesson group leaders and

helped out with literature. And the results are obvious: The subject matter of mass political measures conducted in the subunits has been enriched, and we have already prepared lectures on the problems of war and peace in the ideological struggle and on the ideological diversions of our class enemy in the area of morality. One of the political workers wrote a lecture on attempts by our adversaries to purge the class and sociopolitical criteria of the motherland, patriotism and internationalism from the minds of Soviet youth, and persuade them that the times of "sacrifice" of the heroic five-year plans, the Great Patriotic War, the development of the virgin lands and the shock construction projects have already passed, that the moral example of Pavka Korchargin and Aleksandr Matrosov is now obsolete. I bring this up to emphasize that the assistance the council is providing directly to the regiment, locally, is the most effective. Please visit us more often, comrades.

Colonel A. Luk'yanov: Well, what do you think, should we make it a rule that at least one of the members of the council should devote some time to working in each unit in the course of the year?

Note: The council has united experienced specialists in counterpropaganda. They are the best teachers, and they are people who are well aware of what current lies Western radio stations are cooking up at the moment. To reveal the truth behind these lies in time, to keep slander from getting off the ground, as they say, the council members regularly update the political departments and party committees of the units on such falsifications. For this purpose they use telephone messages and statements at various sorts of conferences, and they distribute methodological briefs to the units. Or if workers of the political directorate are on their way to some particular regiment, they are mandatorily instructed to turn the attention of the commanders and political workers to some particular problem.

It stands to reason that the system for keeping propaganda personnel informed is still undergoing improvement in the district. It is very important to stress here that the problems are not at all technical ones. The efficiency with which ideological activists are kept informed depends in the final analysis on the timeliness and aggressiveness of counterpropaganda work, and it will provide the answer to this question: Will counterpropaganda be simply reacting to events already passed, or will it attack events as they occur.

Colonel R. Orlov, lecturer from the district's political directorate: There is something else that should be understood as well: We cannot limit ourselves just to mass political measures having a counterpropaganda orientation. Every lecture, every political lesson, every seminar in officer Marxist-Leninist training must be saturated with counterpropaganda content.

Take as an example the unit in which Guards Lieutenant Colonel S. Kiselev serves. There they decided not to count only on the members of the counter-propaganda section of the agitation and propaganda group--they did not relinquish complete control over this work to them. In this regiment the section serves as a sort of center for writing substantial statements on the most complex problems of the ideological struggle; all of the rest of the work has been placed upon the shoulders of the communists of the directorate and the subunits. Is this the right way to go? I think yes. The question as to who should be involved in counterpropaganda has been answered there. All communists and official and unofficial propagandists must be involved. And no one argues anymore that because the counterpropaganda section exists, it should be responsible for all counterpropaganda.

But is this the way all units organize this effort? Not at all. If you listen to any of the discussions and political briefings at the company level, or to the youth debates, you'll find that there is still more to learn about the nuances of counterpropaganda.

Colonel A. Luk'yanov: This problem is in fact important. Here is what I think: For a start, we should conduct a special methodological lesson or seminar during the spring meeting of the district's official ideological workers, so that such lessons could subsequently be conducted in every unit. We must teach the people to utilize all possibilities for unmasking our class enemy.

Special emphasis was laid during the meeting of the council on using all available forms and resources and on finding new possibilities for rebuffing the ideological diversions of the enemy. As an example Captain 1st Rank Mal'kov described how his academy uses, in addition to the known active forms of indoctrination, ones such as the "political commentator's roundtable" (of the sort seen in the television program "Studio 9") and the "polemic tribunal," where listeners can state their opinions and debate with the propagandists. And the lecture group of the district's officers club has offered a few talks having to do with counterpropaganda.

We listened to these statements, and something else came to our minds. In addition to seeking new approaches that may be useful, it would also be nice to turn our attention to the experience of the past. For example there was a certain international political satire that was well received at the officers and NCO clubs--many amateur acting collectives had it in their repertoires. Now this genre is rarely being used, unfortunately.

Or consider something else. The political department of the district's air forces once created the "Politboyets" agitation-art detachment, which responded to the most important events in the world and offered persuasive rebukes to our enemies. This detachment has become less active, but why should it not be resurrected, and at a new, higher level at that?

Lieutenant S. Borovinskiy, company deputy commander for political affairs: The topic of conversation at the moment is planned mass political measures. But we must also consider how important it is to influence people in the course of day-to-day communication with them, to not miss the opportunity to deal with occasional dubious lines of thinking.

Once in a break between lessons I overheard someone say that ballooning was becoming the fad in France, that they must surely live the good life over there! "Those adventurers might have bulging wallets, that could surely be argued," I broke into the discussion. "But the simple people have other headaches: How to make it from one paycheck to the next. Not to mention the unemployed." "But their wages don't seem to be that bad," that same soldier said to me. "It could seem that way at first glance. Here are some figures from last year: One out of every five laborers received about 4,000 francs, and one out of every two received a little more than 5,000 francs per month. But is that a lot, or is it a little?"

I invited the soldier to do some arithmetic with me. Rent is 1,500 francs or more. Another 600 to 1,500 francs goes to communal services. The rest (not counting income tax) goes to food, clothing and so on. Moreover consider that a kilogram of meat costs 50 francs, lunch in the most modest cafe costs 35, a movie ticket costs 10 and a glass of sparkling water costs 4 francs. The subway takes up 320 francs a month. And what about medical care, leisure pursuits and education? Then there is the family to take care of."

"Yes," my listeners agreed, "you can't fly very far with that kind of money--you'll more likely go bankrupt if don't economize in literally everything."

Colonel R. Orlov: That's convincing. But I would have to ask myself, why was it so easy for Lieutenant Borovinskiy to react so effectively to the soldier's remark? Because he is prepared, because he knows where to get the needed information, because he reads the papers. But some officers do not have this sort of knowledge. Not because they are too lazy to read--it would be too simple to write off all sins in this way. Sometimes a platoon or a company commander really does not have either the time or opportunity to keep abreast of the flow of information. This is a place where the libraries and reference and information centers need to be addressed. Do all of their workers know how to systematize, select and accumulate the needed material? This is a very important question.

It was noted at the meeting of the council that the sphere of influence of counterpropaganda is widening with every day. There are many things that must be predicted and foreseen in this work. The heralds of the ideas of imperialism are attempting to impose their style of life and thinking upon the Soviet people, to influence the formation of tastes and needs and to cultivate religious viewpoints. It is so important to offer them a timely rebuff, to unmask them, to do everything to confirm our spiritual values and ideals.

Take as an example something that seems most "harmless"--music. It has been transformed by the enemy into a weapon

in the struggle for the spirits of the young. Therefore instilling musical culture into the soldiers is a matter not only for the specialists. Music, after all, is part of the cultural life of the people, a part of their leisure. Major Kozlovskiy, a political worker invited to the meeting of the council, had the following story: This zone of influence once became "unsalable" in his unit. And so, what happened? The discotheque at the garrison officers club was transformed into an ordinary dance hall playing foreign music: No longer was any thought given to lectures, to discussions on music and the life and creativity of composers. Young men visiting the discotheque from neighboring towns began smuggling liquor in more and more frequently. It took a great deal of effort later on to make the discotheque serve its intended purpose once again, to once again have it sponsor functions such as, for example, talks by composers on the place of music in the people's education.

And here is another fact. Letters of a religious content were found one morning in the mailboxes of officers' wives in the residential compound of the unit under the command of Lieutenant Colonel V. Andrianov. These messages ended with the following: Read this, and make nine copies. If you do not do this, your family will be stricken by disease and misfortune.

The political department and the women's council reacted very aggressively, and they intensified their atheistic propaganda. But there is something else that is important here: Religious prejudices and attempts by clergymen to attract people into their webs cannot be left outside the influence of counterpropaganda.

This discussion by the council provided new impetus to counterpropaganda work in the district troops. Today the propagandists believe that the most important thing to do is to infuse this work with the ideas and spirit of the April (1984) CPSU Central Committee Plenum and to raise its effectiveness and its influence on solving the problems of raising combat readiness and alertness. The propagandists are basing their work on what Comrade K. U. Chernenko said about the importance of developing the class maturity of the people, increasing their awareness of their responsibility for the fate of the socialist motherland and providing them with lasting immunity against viewpoints and morals alien to us.

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

NEW COLUMN ON QUALITIES OF POLITICAL OFFICERS INITIATED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Col A. Sgibnev: "The Paths to People"]

[Text] It was almost a year ago that essays first appeared in the "Regiment Commander: Position and Personality" and "Ship Commander: Position and Personality" columns in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. The military reader received them with great interest, because the commander of a regiment and a ship enjoys especially high authority in the troops and in the fleets.

Showing their approval of this effort started by the newspaper, readers have requested publication of essays devoted to army and navy political workers in a similar column. It would be most important to do this today, now that the party Central Committee has outlined new effective measures for improving indoctrination in its recent plenums. Explain to us the best characteristics of political workers and the style of their activity, readers ask in their letters, show us the bounds of their experience and influence, and this will help to increase the combat readiness of the troops, improve party-political work and unify military collectives.

The first essay of this series is offered here today.

During my entire time at the regiment I could not shake off the feeling that I had met Guards Lieutenant Colonel Borodin somewhere before. But where? When? Back when I was an ordinary soldier Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich had not even been born, meaning that he could not have been in our battalion; nonetheless he so much resembled the battalion commissar, Senior Political Instructor Aleksey Tkachev in terms of his closeness to people and his amazingly close kinship with them. Borodin had not participated in the Great Patriotic War for the same reason, but in exercises and missile launchings he strives for the hardest, the most important goals without a second thought, in the same way as Colonel Boris Ivanovich Zakharov, chief of the political department of our III Tank Corps did at the front.

And so it is in the genealogy of the commissars, in the experience of the subsequent decades, that the dominant characteristics of today's political workers have their roots. And Guards Lieutenant Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich Borodin, the deputy commander for political affairs of a Guards antiaircraft missile regiment, is among them. Thus I had in fact met him before: at the fountain-head of his biography, his experience and his authority.

Here is an interesting detail: The first request which Borodin made of his commander when he introduced himself upon arriving at the regiment had nothing to do with housing problems. "Help me learn the equipment you use in the unit," he asked in a friendly tone. "The complexes I worked with before are different." The commander was impressed by his frankness. According to the veterans this is exactly the way the commissars and political workers of the war years behaved, feeling it to be their highest duty to have perfect mastery not only over their powers of speech but also the rifle, the tank and the airplane.

And here is another detail or, to be more exact, an addendum to the first. The commander was pleased to note that Borodin tried to learn from other sources as well. He spent many long hours with the trainer, so as to reinforce his practical skills under the guidance of a certain warrant officer who was a recognized expert in training. Showing no embarrassment because of the difference in position and age, he asked an engineer-lieutenant to give him deeper information on the processes occurring inside the missile. He questioned him ad nauseam, incisively, and it could be felt that he really needed this information. And when certain well-wishers asked Borodin if such frequent appeals for help from subordinates might not have an influence on his authority in the regiment, he replied:

"No, they will not!"

Continuing the conversation, Borodin recalled a passage from some memoirs he had recently read, in which a prominent Soviet military chief condemned officers who felt it demeaning to rely on the experience and knowledge of younger officers. As if this would undermine their authority. As if one can gain and hold authority by concealing one's ignorance. On the contrary, Borodin said in full agreement with the author of the memoirs, he in the military collective who goes to his subordinates for advice, for consultation, for practical experience without any pretentiousness will hold greater respect.

"Borodin worked himself into the regiment quickly," said the formation's chief of the political department. A warmth fed by the sincerity of deep respect emanated from his eyes and from the tone in which he spoke. "Very quickly!" he emphasized after a short pause. This fast assumption of his duties and his first tangible successes were the product of more than just Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich's exceptional diligence and his love for the work, which he had learned early. The main thing is his ability to seek and find many helpers, to inspire them with his own energy and his own interest. Others who do not develop an active following, who do all of the work themselves, who assume all of the responsibility end up forever harried, running themselves exhausted, and making mistakes wherever they go. Borodin, on the other hand, never sets

himself on an ivory tower: When it comes to writing plans and drawing up reports, he always has people to help him. He needs them. They need him. Because given the present scale of the concerns of a regiment, no single executive can do it all.

The chief of the political directorate recalled with obvious pleasure a certain incident that was now in the rather distant past. Once the regiment was visited by a general, primarily to get acquainted, since he had just assumed his new position in the regiment. Ignoring his escorts, he spent hours in the subunits, where he talked with the officers and soldiers and traveled into the field with them in order to see them at work. The missilemen liked the fact that despite the purely technical orientation of his visit, he did find the time to give a talk on an international topic, and he eagerly agreed to take part in a traditional question-and-answer evening. He proved himself to be a real party member, that general did.

"As he was leaving," the chief of the political department said, "the general shared a few of his impressions with us. This one in particular: 'Your deputy commander for political affairs is on leave, but I can sense that his spirit is still here in the regiment. No matter whom I asked about party political work, the answer was always the same: Borodin advised this, or Borodin got this program going. The man is not here, but the work keeps moving along, owing to his example, his spirit and the efforts of helpers he had nurtured. On the whole, Borodin is a good man! Please relay my thanks to him when he returns'."

The memory of the regiment finds it easy to retrieve facts showing that Borodin is truly an expert in uniting people about himself and inspiring them to public activity. It was perhaps a month after the deputy commander arrived when the commander shared a certain concern with him: "I sense that the subunits are having some problems resulting from an ignorance of the manuals, and especially their official responsibilities. The staff advised me to draw up an order reprimanding the subunits for this shortcoming. But I don't think that this would work! I've already tried that."

Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich listened intently, and then he began to speak. And it was through such discussion that measures that could raise the people's sense of responsibility came into being, were polished, and matured.

"We should begin with ourselves," said Borodin. And he could see the reply in his commander's eyes:

"Yes, with ourselves."

This communion of thought was not the product of cheap diplomacy. It was true: The highest responsibility lies with the executives, with the regiment's administration! The commander was aware--and now Borodin confirmed it with his own observations--that the most serious violations of the manuals occur at the fault of the regimental services when they develop the idea that they are exempt from the order of the day. In one case a lesson was postponed arbitrarily, in another the time allocated for preparations for assuming guard

duty was reduced, and in the third case a day off was declared to be a "barracks housekeeping day."

"Are things like this really forgotten? Do they not have an unfavorable influence on subordinates?" Borodin asked. His concern clearly infected the officers of the directorate to whom he was speaking. He spoke passionately, without vainly eyeing the banners and the Colors, the glory of which can sometimes turn the heads of certain people. The regiment commander, who was sitting in the audience as well, felt satisfaction in the political worker's aggressive approach and in his confident ability to maintain the attention of his listeners and demonstrate to them the political significance of their responsibilities and their daily labor.

"I agree with every word spoken by Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich Borodin," the commander said at the meeting's conclusion. "We are entrusted with too great a responsibility, and not one of us can allow himself to relax in any way."

On that same day the regiment deputy commander for political affairs invited agitators to his office from the subunits. His report was short, and the discussion it evoked took up 2 hours. Moreover the audience did not even sense how subtly and unnoticeably Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich led the discussion to a natural question: "But how well do we ourselves know the manuals?"

"I have no intention of making you take tests on them," Borodin said in parting, but everyone was aware of what was required of him personally. It is bad when agitation is conducted in word only. The word, reinforced by faultless service, service in accordance with the manual--that is what is needed! That is what agitators of former years said as well, when they looked up from their notes at their own generation of listeners: Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich has often worked overtime in the archives in order to come up with examples of what they said.

And so the testing began--in the commander's office, at headquarters, and in the party bureau. Of course they were not called tests in the party bureau--they were referred to simply as friendly discussions. While in former times it was thought to be embarrassing to intrude upon communists of the regiment's administration, that some of them might consider such an intrusion an insult, Borodin put the questions to the members of the party bureau directly: "What are you scared of? Do you think respectfulness is really more precious than the interests of the state?"

The correctness of this position was confirmed in one of the very first meetings. One of the communists, who had accrued a rather long history as a chief of service, was unable to relate his official responsibilities even approximately. Could this not be the reason for the problems encountered in management of subordinated subunits? On the other hand another person who was asked the same questions was quick with the answers, and he sounded like he knew what was going on. But what were things really like? On studying the situation locally, the regiment commander and the deputy for political affairs found some serious complaints against him. In the organization of training. In

maintenance of the surroundings. In supplying the personnel with everything they needed.

"You told the bureau what the ration norms were with an accuracy down to the gram and centimeter--you get an "A" for that but why, tell us, do the sergeants regularly short-change the soldiers in their soap allowance? Why are their towels half as long as they should be? What gave you the idea to start repairs on the drying room just when the weather got bad? You won't even squeak out a "D" for that! Let me give you some strong advice: Take your cue from our meeting today--don't wait for a reprimand."

Most of those present took the political deputy commander's stern words as something justified by the times and the tasks. Party bureau secretary Guards Major Aleksandr Nikolayevich Mashkarin, a person who was held in esteem in the regiment, clarified in an interview with me that the chief of service who was dressed down so unenviably at the meeting had changed his ways considerably. Recently he received a promotion, proving that he could mend his ways without first receiving a reprimand. Another person who received a promotion several days previously was Guards Major Sergey Petrovich Smolin, also a chief of service and also one who had forgotten that the manuals are supremely important to us. Thus the line we adopted endures, the secretary went on, it will not dwindle into oblivion. And all the more so today, when the problems concerned with organization, responsibility and with improving order have become fundamental ones to the party, the people and the army! This was often the focal point of the speeches given by CPSU Central Committee general secretary, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko. To us, the army communists, the party's directives are a program of action.

But let us return back to the beginning. The regiment, which even previously was distinguished by good organization, improved even more. An increase in exactingness was viewed at all levels as an increase in strength. Moreover the enthusiasm displayed by Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich and his assistants from among the party and Komsomol active members increased, rather than diminishing.

Once young officers got together at the club for their traditional lieutenants' evening. The subject of the report was "In Strict Compliance with the Military Manuals." The speaker was Communist Guards Lieutenant Aleksey Kolodko, commander of an outstanding platoon. The brevity and concreteness of the words which emanated from the podium riveted the attention of the audience. The words "what" and "how" were brought together in a meaningful combination--that is, he asked what was being done in the interests of strengthening order and most importantly, how was it being done. Kolodko mentally thanked Borodin for this: When they were putting the final polish on the report, Borodin advised: "Give more details, talk more about things that you personally found, tested and introduced into practice."

"Tomorrow, comrades, you are all invited to visit the platoon."

This was another of Borodin's suggestions. The idea was to silence those who would argue that it was easy to paint a rosy picture on paper. When the

guests came to the platoon, and the lessons were started before their eyes quickly and efficiently, and when they found ideal coziness in the barracks and they were able to observe the soldiers--their behavior and their military bearing--when they were at their ease, they came to understand that they did in fact have something they could learn from Kolodko.

Incidentally the tour ended with, of all things, a tea party, and not at Aleksey Kolodko's, but at the home of his father--Guards Senior Warrant Officer Ivan Glebovich Kolodko, a battery chief. Both the regiment commander, who had grown up with the regiment since he was a lieutenant, and Borodin felt that such a chief was one in a million! He was devoted to his work, and he was a model of diligence. He was a demanding individual, primarily of himself, in the party way. But this is not yet a complete portrait. He loves to work with young people, so that they might set off on their own sooner. The present meeting with the lieutenants disturbed some of his plans, but as long as the officers were asking for him, how could he refuse? When they all sat down, and the talking died down Borodin said:

"We know that you, Ivan Glebovich, deserve considerable credit for Aleksey's achievements. His friends, peers are hoping for some of your guidance as well."

"I will be happy to be of use," he said as he led the lieutenants through his domain with an understanding of the young and their training needs, revealing to them that morale, training and combat depended upon them.

Then he answered dozens of how's and why's. Then he ceremoniously brewed some tea out of ingredients he had gathered in the woods, joking that he would not even reveal his recipe to the commander or political deputy commander. And then, turning serious, he uttered as a solemn pronouncement:

"A deep knowledge of the manuals, faith in their wisdom and open and conscious obedience to them are what make a person with shoulder boards a real soldier!"

My dwelling so long on the first months of Borodin's work was deliberate. Those months were the starting point. They were a test of all of his characteristics. Would it be right to think that things are easier now? Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich smiled: "When does it ever get easier for a political worker?" And his smile reflected a holiday sort of happiness.

Before my departure I was able to observe Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich at work as a propagandist. They had just completed a showing of the documentary film "Crusaders of the 20th Century." The film was about outlaws in the American Marines making up the fighting core of the Rapid Deployment Forces. The Guards lieutenant colonel supplemented what was on the screen with anger and, I would say with rage: The missilemen could literally see that the modern crusaders, these knights in trench coats and daggers, shed the blameless blood of the Vietnamese on their native soil, invaded Grenada and committed atrocities in Lebanon.

"The peoples of the world damn the soldiers of America. No one has ever built a Treptov Park in honor of the Americans. Nowhere is there a monument to the American soldier which a child rescued by him would trustingly embrace. People do not erect monuments to executioners and invaders, nor do they exalt them with gratefulness and glory!"

The applause was long and loud after this agitated, rousing speech by the deputy commander for political affairs.

So ends my story about this political worker--a leader, a hard worker, a truly wise person. But to tell the truth he also has characteristics which are somewhat at odds with the traditional definition of a hero. As an example Borodin never burns the midnight oil--he feels that the day and the evening are sufficiently long to manage to get all things done.

But that is not all. No one has ever seen him walking around on his day off with a briefcase symbolizing perpetual concern and fatigue: He also manages to find time to go to the movies with his wife, to play with his children and to go hunting for mushrooms or berries in the early morning in the nearby forest.

That is what Guards Lieutenant Colonel Yevgeniy Anatol'yevich Borodin is like--a warrior of the party, the spiritual mentor of the soldiers and officers.

11004

CSO: 1801/309

ARMED FORCES

REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS' RESPONSIBILITIES DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Mar 84 pp 3-4

[Article by Lt Col V. Zhitarenko and Lt Col (Res) V. Vozovikov, Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "The Regimental Commander: The Position and the Individual: The Grammar of Combat"]

[Text] That day on the snow-covered range amidst the ridges and sparse woods, it seemed to us that neither the snowdrifts nor the old emplacements and trenches concealed beneath them existed for the tanks and infantry combat vehicles, so swiftly had the attack begun. When the fighting has begun and the artillery is already speaking, and when passages have been made in minefields on the axis of attack ahead of the forward edge by fire and the labor of combat engineers, only a resolute, rapid closing with the defending enemy can allow avoiding nuclear and concentrated fire strikes from the ground and from the air. This means preserving the personnel and equipment, attacking with all the might of fire and armor, and wringing out victory in combat.

"Time" and "speed" were words repeated more than once by regimental commander Gds Lt Col Klinovskiy when he assigned the combat mission to tank battalion commander Gds Maj Yevgeniy Gushchin and to Gds Capt Aleksandr Besshlyaga, commander of the attached motorized rifle company. They also were repeated more than once in the combat formations of both commanders. It was seemingly understood that high speed in the attack not only does not preclude, but assumes powerful and accurate fire. The regimental commander's demand, reincarnated in the operation orders of the commanders of battalions, companies, platoons and crews, reached all NCO's and privates. Commanders, political officers, and the party and Komsomol activists in tank and BMP [infantry combat vehicle] crews tried to keep the people attuned to a decisive attack even at the moment when the subunits were at the attack position concealed by the forest. It was no accident that the attack began at such a formidable pace. Nevertheless, no matter what the beginning, it is crowned by the end...

It is especially difficult to fight at high speeds. It becomes more complicated to control all combat elements, to ensure coordinated actions and to commit each subunit to combat at that moment when the force of its blow is at the maximum. Any imprecise command or poorly understood signal, even the

commander's slight error in calculating time or choosing the axis of attack, or a slight hitch or moment of confusion inevitably lead either to a dangerous bunching of the attackers or to no less dangerous gaps in the combat formation, or even to a disorderly, uncoordinated attack. But in maneuverable and fast-moving modern combat the only one who will gain victory is the one who is able to completely use the high mobility of combat equipment in combination with irresistible fire. Time has immeasurably raised the value of those commanders who are able to orient themselves well and control subordinates firmly in rapid movement on the battlefield.

Viktor Sergeyevich Klinovskiy mastered this law with all his service experience from a rank-and-file tankman to commander of the Shepetovka Triple-Order Guards Tank Regiment. He also has other experience gained from his frontline father. Sgt Sergey Yakovlevich Klinovskiy fought from forty-one to forty-five and received three serious wounds, one of them at Stalingrad. And how often Klinovskiy Senior, in telling his sons about fights and campaigns, would repeat that in war the one who is strongest is the one who acts resolutely and swiftly while managin; to be prudent.

For Gds Lt Col Klinovskiy prudence is above all the reliable preparation of subordinates and their ability to make maximum combat use of the remarkable qualities of combat equipment with which the regiment is armed. A person who by nature is accessible and who is able to dispose both the senior officer, the lieutenant and the private to himself in a comradely way and draw them into a frank conversation, Klinovskiy places rigid demands on everything concerning combat training, and above all the personal training of commanders and staff officers. He has a set of invariable demands in all tactical problems with officers: firmly recall the prescribed commands and signals (for even a forgotten callsign leads to a loss of time in combat), orient yourself rapidly, make the decision during the march and combat without stopping the movement, anticipate possible situations based on a good knowledge of the terrain and enemy, and show initiative in striving to accomplish the assigned mission.

No matter what time problems the regimental commander and staff may get into in exercises, Klinovskiy remembers that the combat mission has to be understood not only by the staff officers and subunit commanders, but also by every crew. He knows from his own experience how hard it is even for the tank commander and driver-mechanic to go into combat hearing only one command: "Forward!" The fight for time begins on the regimental staff. Often not only chief of staff Gds Maj Anatoliy Kuznetsov, but also other officers (above all the deputy, Gds Maj Vladimir Pozhidayev, and political deputy Gds Maj Nikolay Shchegolev) participate in working out a decision for combat together with the commander. It happens where even party committee secretary Gds Lt Col Yuriy Kilocho becomes a participant in the effective staff work. In this case the commander is not just concerned with saving time; participation in preparing the decision for combat helps the political officer and the party secretary best mobilize people to perform the combat mission, and this already is no small guarantee of success.

Klinovskiy loves to work with the map himself, selecting the subunit routes of movement, determining the lines from the initial line to lines of departure and commitment of reserves, and "guessing at" danger zones where it is possible to come under missile and air strikes, which means the march must be organized in a special manner. This passion of Klinovskiy's for the map also is no accident. Behind it lies an understanding gained through experience that a commander who has a good idea of the terrain where he will encounter the enemy is capable of conducting maneuverable combat successfully. Each time, a comparison of the maps of the trainee battalion commanders and staff officers with the commander's map and an analysis of that map on the terrain is a memorable lesson for them.

The commander's example, especially in combat work, shapes his subordinates. In a conversation about the regiment's personnel Klinovskiy said firmly: "If I have assigned a combat mission to Gds Maj Bogatyrev, I know it will be accomplished under any conditions. If the companies of Capt Aleksandr Sherstyuk, Sr Lt Sergey Demchenko and Sr Lt Sergey Gladukha are operating on the hottest and most important axis in combat, I have no doubt as to the success of the matter. These are guardsmen." Klinovskiy named more and more people close to his heart and one involuntarily envies this commander, for he himself put many of them "on their feet," he is taking the regiment into the ranks of outstanding with them, and more than one of them has been appointed to a higher position on his recommendation. In the 3½ years he has commanded the regiment tens of officers have been transferred to other units with an advancement. Although the commander admits that it is a pity to release the best people, any advancement of an officer is both the regiment's aktiv and its pride. It is not only proper, but necessary for a growth in our Army's might that the best people of the best units carry their combat experience and traditions to their comrades in arms.

The regiment's combat traditions embody its unfading glory. HSU's I. P. Golub' and V. I. Peshekhonov have been placed on its rolls forever. The orders of Red Banner, Suvorov and Kutuzov flash on the colors of the guards tank regiment. Each of these three orders reminds the young tankmen that their fathers and grandfathers fought the enemy not only fearlessly, but also skillfully in the manner of Suvorov, Kutuzov and the guards. These traditions born of war contain the sources of the tankmen's common desire to function in every field exercise as in combat. "Serving in that regiment, one cannot fight poorly even in exercises" are the words of political deputy Gds Maj Shchegolev, to which Klinovskiy nodded approvingly.

That day when the regimental commander was conducting a battalion tactical exercise we were familiarized with results of the regimental subunits' firing and it immediately became clear why the tankmen do not "fear" to attack at high speeds. All companies received good marks and some lacked only two or three points for outstanding marks although there were many young persons among the tank commanders and gunners who recently arrived in the regiment from training subunits...

Gds Maj G. Shchin also is a young battalion commander. That probably is why Klinovskiy was so concerned with the beginning of combat and watched the attackers' actions with extreme attention, trying not to miss a single sound over the air or a single maneuver of the tank and motorized rifle subunits.

It is difficult to conceal a battalion's movement from "enemy" eyes even on broken terrain and behind the wall of fire of an artillery assault. The snow-white field in the uneven hollow where the tank companies were deploying into combat formation was blackened with the smoke of bursts. But only the first series of "rounds" fell in the combat formations; the next ones burst far behind the stern of the tanks--like an experienced fighter who has been under fire more than once, the battalion moved out from under the fire assault by a swift dash. The tanks were on the crest of a small hill and now the vehicle commanders and gunners could see the "enemy" forward edge--the moment had arrived which in real combat brings success or failure of an attack. Who would open fire first and whose rounds would be more accurate?

This is not a moving-target tank gunnery range with a familiar panorama, customary reference points and customary lanes where driver-mechanics remember every rut. This is a tactical field with all its surprises. But the subunit commanders do not waver before them or slow the swift movement of the extended line on entering into fire contact with the "enemy."

The roar of tank guns blends into a rolling, protracted salvo and is immediately replaced by the continuous crackle of machineguns and drowned out by the frequent fire of artillery pieces. There was a wall of bursts behind the swirling snow thrown up by the tracks and it was only by the flashing tracers in clouds of smoke that one could locate targets while observing the attack from one side. The tanks did not slow down as they moved against the first defensive position and one could only imagine what difficult work they made for the "enemy" gunners, ATGM operators and rocket launcher men. Even on a range it is difficult to hit tanks bobbing off the roads like small combatants on steep waves, let alone in combat under aimed fire, the force of which was growing...

The regimental commander seemed imperturbable; only his brows were drawn slightly together. The targets would show whether or not the young battalion commander wasn't acting too self-confidently and whether or not his subordinates had enough weapon skills to conduct an attack at high speed. But the very fact that we could find barely distinguishable targets in the clouds of smoke and tossed-up snow from the fiery lines of machinegun tracers indicated a great deal. The regimental commander was silent, which meant the battalion was achieving success. Overwhelming the bombarded forward edge like an iron wave, the tanks departed into the defensive depth with increasing speed, hitting individual weapon emplacements by fire from the move. Now it was possible to follow them only in BMP's...

Something unforeseen happened in the attack on the "enemy's" second position. In going around an inconvenient "hump" on which the "enemy" might hit the combat vehicles from long range, the subunit attacking in the center shifted

sharply to the left flank and the battalion's combat formation was disrupted. Because of the swift movement the breach appeared so suddenly that the young battalion commander was not able to intervene and correct the situation in time. On the other hand, the "enemy" did not let the moment slip by. It was in this gap in the attackers' combat formation that he directed the counter-attack of his tanks and infantry, supported by artillery and ATGM launchers. The few battalion crews separated from the combat formation were not able to halt the strong group of counterattackers; they merely slowed its movement. A threat hung over the exposed flank and rear of the battalion main body.

The attack halted and the tankmen began to reform, deploying against the counterattackers. But the time already was being counted in seconds, and a realignment of the combat formation required minutes. Then the slightly tense voice of the regimental commander came over the air:

"'Third', you have a reserve; commit it immediately!"

The company in BMP's attached to the tankmen was following the attacking line in approach march formation, ready to enter combat. According to Gds Maj Gushchin's decision, it was to be committed through the tank combat formations in the defensive depth after a successful attack of the forward edge to build up the attack and for reliable consolidation at the line which was held. Although a dangerous situation now had shaped up for the attackers, the battalion commander probably was under the influence of his own decision--he still was "saving" the reserve for the future although it already was necessary to save the present. Initiative in combat and a commander's creativeness probably often consist of resolutely rejecting at a critical moment what you thought up earlier, what you prepared yourself for and what you expected: reject it and acting according to the situation, use all available means to wrest the initiative from the enemy and change the course of combat in your own favor. This is what Klinovskiy reminded the battalion commander of with his prompting.

By the way, it seems that was the only prompting and it didn't have to be repeated. Gushchin immediately issued an order and then it was as if a steel spring uncoiled on the crest of a gentle hill ahead of the counterattackers' flank--the motorized riflemen entered combat from the move.

It is in exercises where there is the smell of powder that one gains a special understanding of the daily difficult tactical drill problems and special practices. The normative seconds saved are gained by callouses and sweat, but victory in combat is shaped from these seconds won... It was as if an unknown force ejected the personnel from the fighting compartments, and hardly had a half-minute gone by since the deployment when a resilient skirmish line of men and steel appeared on the snowy field. The dark arrows of rockets dashed to meet the counterattacking tanks, and machineguns and submachineguns struck the infantry. But even before that the BMP gunner-operators had entered a fire-fight with the "enemy"...

Later when the all clear sounded for the exercise and when it was learned that the fire by tankmen and motorized riflemen had been declared good and the first critique of tactical actions was held in the subunits, we cautiously hinted to the commander that the tank battalion commander hardly deserved that strict rebuke which he heard from the director. Klinovskiy responded with restraint:

"He did, and we will still continue the conversation with battalion commanders about this. He pondered too long whether or not to commit the reserve although the situation itself suggested this. It was in this instance that the director's prompting was not required. Everything can be lost in combat after losing a minute. We aren't learning to play checkers. Gushchin also understands this well." Klinovskiy suddenly smiled: "We have a foremost regiment, the initiator of socialist competition in the district, and you think that a commander only hears praise from his superiors? Much more often it is the reverse, and this is proper: We pledged to achieve the title of outstanding regiment and not one battalion has yet gone above a good grade. And so we still have to work and work without forgiving each other for a single mistake, especially in such a matter as tactical and weapons training. The word of a guardsman is a cherished word..."

The tankmen and motorized riflemen returned to their tank compound from the exercise. The long crosscountry route resembled first an accordion, then a path with manmade obstacles. The vehicles were swinging and shaking on the ruts, but both commanders led the column at the maximum speed possible. An all clear had been given for the exercise, but combat training continued. Both looked at their watches anxiously from time to time. They knew that the regimental commander also was looking at his watch now.

6904

CSO: 1801/298

ARMED FORCES

QUESTIONS, RESPONSES ON NEW MATERIEL-LOSS REGULATIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Maj Gen Justice B. S. Popov, first deputy chief military procurator, in response to readers' questions: "The Commander and the Law: If Damage is Done"]

[Text] The new Statute on Material Liability of Servicemen for Damage to the State became effective on 1 March of this year. The editors are receiving letters in which the authors ask to be told about the procedure for its application. First Deputy Chief Military Procurator Maj Gen Justice B. S. Popov answers the readers' questions.

Maj V. Tsonda: Under what circumstances are the rules established by the Statute effective?

[Answer] They are applied when damage is done when a serviceman is performing duties prescribed by the military regulations, other legal documents, and orders. Let's say a driver had an accident in performing a mission assigned by the commander because he ignored traffic rules. In this case the culprit's liability will be restricted by the limits established by the Statute. For example, the limit of a soldier's material liability for damage done through carelessness is limited to 100 rubles, or to a month's pay for an officer. But the very same accident which a driver has during an unauthorized departure from the unit entails material liability on a civil basis and the damage will have to be reimbursed fully.

WO [Praporshchik] N. Kovalev: What does it mean that only the actual direct loss is subject to reimbursement?

[Answer] Such damage at times still is called real. This means that there is reimbursement for the cost of property actually lost or damaged or for overdrawn funds. The actual damage from an automobile breakdown is the cost of its repair. Losses from a vehicle standing idle during repair (the so-called lost profit) are not taken into account.

An exception to these rules concerns only reimbursement for damage caused by theft or loss of a weapon, currency values and certain kinds of special property. Such damage is recovered from guilty parties in a multiple of the cost of what was lost.

Lt Col M. Savilin: In what instances does the responsibility of commanders and superiors come into play?

[Answer] First of all let's not forget that all rules on servicemen's material liability extend to them. In addition, they also can be responsible for damage caused by their subordinates: first of all if [their subordinates] violated existing procedures for accounting, storage, use, expenditure and transportation of military property because of their own incorrect instructions; secondly, if steps were not taken to prevent theft or damage of property: construction materials which arrived in the unit were left out in the open without security. And finally, a superior bears material liability when he has not taken steps to have the guilty parties reimburse the damage.

By the way, two other special kinds of material liability of appointed persons now have been established. It is borne by those who did not ensure the prompt unloading (or loading) of railcars and other means of transportation. Damage here is taken to mean the military unit's payment of a penalty for layover of transportation. Unit commanders and the chiefs of establishments, enterprises and organizations also must compensate for damage caused by the payment of funds to workers and employees for a forced absence from work or partial loss in pay if there was an instance of the illegal release of persons or their illegal transfer to a lower paying job. Such damage is reimbursed by guilty parties within the limit of three times their monthly pay.

WO [Michman] S. Semin: What is the procedure for making a decision about reimbursement for damage and how is it formalized?

[Answer] On discovering a loss the commander or chief who has the rights of an organ of inquiry appoints an administrative investigation, which must be completed in one month's time. If necessary this time period can be extended by the senior chief for up to one month more. An investigation is not held if the amount of loss and the guilty parties have been determined by an audit, an inquiry, a preliminary investigation or a court.

An investigation establishes the size of the loss, its reasons and the guilty parties. It is mandatory that a causal relationship be established between the serviceman's actions (or inaction) and the loss which ensued. For example, poor work by an internal audit commission really could hinder the search for parties guilty of a certain shortage. Nevertheless, the shortage did not arise through the fault of the commission members themselves. Therefore they cannot be held for material liability for the shortage.

The administrative investigation also establishes the form of guilt of those responsible for the loss: whether they acted intentionally or through carelessness. The special circumstances of what occurred also are indicated: a

serviceman acted in executing an order, under conditions of extreme necessity, and so on, which precludes his material liability.

The order effecting a monetary deduction in an account is issued within one month from the date the investigation ends (or from the date audit materials or the documents of an investigation or trial are received in the unit). The guilty party has the right to reimburse for the loss voluntarily. If reimbursement for the loss has not been completed by the moment the guilty party is released to the reserve or retirement the remaining sums are recovered in an uncontested manner by a notarial endorsement of execution.

Sr Lt A. Dolya: How are decisions on reimbursement for loss appealed?

[Answer] Complaints are sent to the senior chief under procedures determined by the Code of Disciplinary Punishment. It is the responsibility of military procurators to supervise application of the Statute. A military procurator's protest in connection with an illegal decision about reimbursement for material loss is subject to review within ten days and deduction is suspended until a new decision is made.

"I would like to say in conclusion," said Maj Gen Justice Popov, "that proper application of the new Statute on Material Liability of Servicemen by commanders and chiefs will contribute both to a further strengthening of the regime of economy and thrift, and to the protection of soldiers' legitimate interests and rights. I also believe that this work has great importance for developing each serviceman's personal sense of responsibility for the safe-keeping of military and state property."

6904

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

March Mailbag

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Apr 84 p 2

[Article: "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Mail"]

[Text] In March 1984 the editors received 21,141 letters, 552 of which were published in the newspaper. There were 668 responses to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles.

Soviet military personnel are perfecting their combat proficiency in an atmosphere of great political enthusiasm generated by resolutions of the extraordinary February 1984 CPSU Central Committee Plenum and elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet. While persistently mastering the formidable weapons and modern equipment, they are striving for new successes in competition under the motto "Be on guard and in constant readiness to defend socialism's achievements!" Many letters from readers tell of the successes in combat and political training and in socialist competition with which military collectives are entering the final phase of the winter training period.

Gds Engr-Capt A. Sinerov writes: "The launching battery commanded by Gds Maj S. Belov performed a recent operational training mission in a situation approximating the conditions of modern combat to the maximum. Despite active 'enemy' opposition the launch made by the missilemen was on target. Having given its word to join the ranks of outstanding, the battery confirmed its resolve to finish the training year with honor."

Gds Sr Lt G. Kal'min, Sgt V. Khomutov, Pfc U. Abkayev and many other readers report the soldiers' high intensity in military labor and their desire to worthily perform the sacred duty to the Motherland.

The past month was marked by an important event in our country's life--elections were held to the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation. Many readers told about the feeling of high responsibility for the Motherland's security and the thoughts of a need to continue to improve the Army and Navy's combat readiness comprehensively with which the Soviet soldiers participated in the voting.

"In a little over a year," says I. Dautov in a letter from Odessa, "our people, and with them all progressive mankind, will celebrate a glorious date-- the 40th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. Having withstood all ordeals, we utterly defeated the enemy. As a frontlinesman I have the right to say: 'Let those who today rattle the sabers in preparing a "crusade" against us remember this history lesson. And let our children and grandchildren, who have replaced the veterans in combat formation, always keep their powder dry'."

In their letters the readers support with all their heart the active foreign policy of the Communist Party and Soviet government directed toward ridding mankind of the threat of world nuclear war, and they call on Soviet soldiers to vigilantly safeguard our people's peaceful, creative labor. Steel worker V. Lazovoy from Magnitogorsk, calf attendant V. Terent'yeva from the village of Dubskoye, Gorkiy Oblast, and many other readers whose sons serve in the Army and Navy write about this.

Capt D. Il'yenko, Sr Lt A. Dmitriyenko, WO [Praporshchik] S. Gladkiy, Cadet P. Mukhortov and others tell the editors about the desire of the Army and Navy youth to worthily greet the All-Army Conference of Komsomol organization secretaries.

Many letters contain evidence of the continuity of wonderful traditions of the Great Initiative. "For the 11th year now our military construction detachment has borne the honorable title of communist labor detachment," writes Maj A. Tlyapov from the Ural Military District. "We will also work in a communist way on 'Red Saturday.' On that day it was decided to fulfill the production norm by no less than 125 percent."

Letters from Lt Col (Res) M. Kamshilin from Chekhov, Moscow Oblast, Capt B. Derypasko from the Far East Military District and many others have something in common with this letter.

But the editorial mail also contains letters generating a feeling of bitterness. War participant F. Kondratenko writes from Makeyevka: "Recently, considering my frontline wounds (one of them was serious), our city health department gave me a pass for treatment in our own city hospital for Patriotic War invalids. I arrived there and they began to send me first to the senior nurse, then the medical service chief and toward the end, after long ordeals, they said that there were no beds. I wouldn't have been offended if it had been explained to me even before the pass was handed out that there were certain difficulties. But it turned out that they seemingly showed respect for a sick frontlinesman and at the same time turned him away from the gate."

There also are other complaints in last month's mail which indicate that sensitivity and attention to people and to their needs and wants still are not always being shown locally.

Warrant Officer School Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Apr 84 p 2

[Item: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'A Blank Round'"]

[Text] That was the title of a letter from Engr-Maj A. Puchkov with commentary by our correspondent Lt Col N. Fedoseyev, published on 24 January. It discussed the fact that there were serious deficiencies in indoctrinational work in the warrant officer [praporshchik] school where Maj Yu. Komarov is the chief.

As the editors were informed by Col Yu. Lan'shin, first deputy chief of the political department of Siberian Military District Aviation, the letter entitled "A 'Blank' Round" was discussed in the political department and with commanders and political officers of the warrant officer school. Problems of cadet training and indoctrination also were discussed at the school methods council. Party member Capt V. Kadetov was given disciplinary punishment and held accountable by the party. He was given a severe reprimand with entry in the record. An officers' comrades' court of honor adopted a decision to petition the command element to reduce Officer Yu. Markelov by one military rank.

The commentary by our correspondent criticized not only appointed persons of the warrant officer school; it cited instances of a formal approach to selecting candidates for training in warrant officer schools in the Ural Military District and Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, but the editors did not receive a response from appropriate echelons about the steps taken.

Railcar Layovers

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Apr 84 p 2

[Item: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'And the Cars are Laying Over'"]

[Text] The letter from Lt Col Ya. Oreshchich, published under that title on 19 January, discussed the lengthy layovers of railcars arriving at Unit "X." As the editors were informed by Lt Gen Avn V. Tsar'kov, the reasons for which the cars were idle had been eliminated. Unit commander Maj V. Arkhipov was removed from his position and given a demotion in assignment for an irresponsible attitude toward performance of official duties.

Physical Assets Lost

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Apr 84 p 2

[Item: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'In the Absence of a Presence'"]

[Text] That was the title of a satirical article by Col A. Drovosekov published on 17 January. It criticized appointed persons by whose connivance no small amount of physical assets were lost. As the editors were informed by

colonels G. Gusev and G. Kudlay, the newspaper article was discussed at a command-political conference of units, where officers V. Kharaltin and V. Nikitin were given a hearing. Classes were held with commanders and other appointed persons at which documents on the organization and conduct of unit administration and services were studied. A seminar also was held with the chairmen of people's control groups and of internal audit commissions. The material damage caused by persons directly guilty of property loss was recovered from all of them. The post military procuracy instituted criminal cases with respect to the shortage at depots. Commanders of units where deficiencies indicated in the satirical article were allowed were given disciplinary punishment and held materially accountable.

It must be assumed that the steps taken will have an influence, but one cannot help but note that the announcement about these steps was received by the editors more than two months after publication of the satirical article; moreover, reminders had to be sent twice to appropriate comrades about the need for a prompt reaction to the newspaper article.

Enlisted Teahouse Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 84 p 2

[Item: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'A Samovar for the Entourage'"]

[Text] That was the title of an article published on 2 February which discussed deficiencies in the work of a number of enlisted men's teahouses. As the editors were informed by Lt Gen G. Gromov, member of military council and chief of political directorate of the Volga Military District, the facts cited in the article did occur. By this time the premises of the enlisted men's teahouse had received a major overhaul, furniture had been replaced and availability of commodities was being kept in conformity with the assortment list. Deficiencies in the work of other enlisted men's teahouses had been remedied and their councils were re-elected to include the most active public workers. Seminars for teahouse council chairmen held in political departments discussed questions of planning, organizing and conducting the cultural leisure in enlisted men's teahouses. A district course for chiefs of military exchange public nourishment departments discussed steps for a further improvement in providing teahouses with confectioneries, their own baked products, juices and other food products. The chief of the district rear, unit [soyedineniye and chast'] commanders, and chiefs of military educational institutions and establishments were given instructions about reinforcing attention to the work of enlisted men's and cadet teahouses.

Cultural Activities Stressed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 84 p 2

[Letter by Cadet N. Popov and commentary by Lt Col V. Yakimov, Honored Worker of Culture of UkSSR, chief of the Soviet Army Central Academic Theater: "Opinions, Judgements, Advice: Enter the World of the Beautiful"]

[Text] When I entered the Moscow Higher Combined-Arms Command School imeni RSFSR Supreme Soviet, school comrades envied me in their letters: there are so many theaters, museums and concert halls in the capital. But 1½ years already have gone by and I have managed to visit far from every place I would have liked, even in an organized manner. There is not enough time, and this is a pity. Some of my classmates try to console me: don't take it so hard, our main job is to study well; the troop units won't demand an accounting for the fact that you didn't visit the MKhAT [Moscow Academic Theater of the Arts imeni M. Gor'kiy] or the Tret'yakov. At first I didn't agree with that position, but now I myself incline toward it. Dear "Azimuth," I would like to learn your opinion on this matter.

Cadet N. Popov

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondent Lt Col A. Garavskiy showed Cadet Popov's letter to Lt Col V. Yakimov, Honored Worker of Culture of the UkSSR and chief of the Soviet Army Central Academic Theater, and asked him to share his thoughts on this matter.

I am always happy when I see spectators in cadet uniform in our theater. I am pleased with their gravitation toward beautiful things. What we understand as an officer's cultural outlook largely is shaped in his cadet years. I also judge this from my own experience. Four years of study at schools gave me a very great deal. It was then that I became accustomed to the theater, tried not to miss a single opening and seriously studied literature--for hours on end I could recite from memory Lermontov's "The Demon," Yesenin's "Anna Snegina," Blok's "Twelve," and chapters from prose. On Sundays we would visit the picture gallery, go to the theater or conservatory and become familiar with city monuments and architecture. In short, we tried to absorb like a sponge everything the oblast center could provide for spiritual enrichment.

In school we had a good amateur group and we participated willingly in it. An anthology of literary fiction was created in the course and rules for the anthology were even drawn up with the help of instructor Lt Col I. Podobed and course chief Capt V. Zabashtanskiy. Some of us participated in a society of literary fiction directed by Lyubov' Filippovna Kalachevskaya, People's Artist of the UkSSR. I and several other cadets became degree-seekers in an oblast contest for readers.

What I have said does not mean that our esthetic education was directed only by our own enthusiasms and tastes. It was conducted purposefully and

thoughtfully, with not only the instructors, commanders and political officers monitoring it, but the school chief personally as well. Thanks to them, the access to the world of the beautiful became a spiritual need for the majority of us.

It is said that science makes a person a specialist while culture, literature and the arts form a person out of a specialist. This somewhat categorical wording contains, in my view, a significant portion of the truth, with the correction that the development process itself has to have a continuous nature. I will again mention my cadet years. In school we acquired only the rudimentary skills of contact with beautiful things, albeit broad ones. The filling out of my "student" and "spectator" experience continued even later when I was working as chief of the unit club and of the post officers' club, and when I taught cultural enlightenment work in school. Even now I hurry to the theater, an exhibit or the museum at every free minute.

It must be said that military schools have excellent opportunities for giving cadets access to the world of the beautiful. Many of them have drawn up comprehensive communist indoctrination plans which place much emphasis on mass cultural activities. But I am deeply convinced that these plans must be supplemented with individual plans. Recently I had occasion to talk with Lt S. Sidorov, a graduate of the very same school from which the letter arrived. He said that as early as the first course he drew up a schedule for visiting theaters, exhibits, concert halls, picture galleries and the capital's historic sites and he had fulfilled it by the end of his training.

Cadet Popov writes about a shortage of free time. It stands to reason that the shortage is perceptible, and this makes it even more important to make maximum rational use of the time. Take note that most often it is not persons outstanding in training who complain about a shortage of time (by the way, Lt Sidorov completed school with a gold medal), but those who work listlessly and half-heartedly.

In our cadet years many of us left nothing for tomorrow and tried to do everything simultaneously. We did nothing but work in lectures, seminars and in hours for self-training, and so time remained for self-education. We speak with enthusiasm about the classic writer who went through universities of life, about the marshal whose academies were the battlefields and about the Kaluga teacher who would have had the right to bear the title of Academician, but do we ourselves always regard self-education seriously?

How can we not recall here the following words by V. I. Lenin: "No one ever will give you anything if you are not able to take it..."

"To take it..." To learn and be enriched with knowledge daily and hourly. That in my view is how the question must be posed. Let me not seem to be immodest, but I personally learned this truth back in my cadet years. At one time I enjoyed running the marathon. Well, I didn't simply run tens of kilometers a day, but I would recite poems as I went. One way I would manage to "run through" "Anna Snegina" and "The Demon" the other way.

And finally about the interests and tastes over which people argue. I don't agree with the familiar assertion; more precisely, over which people must argue; argue with those who merely "pick up" disks and cassettes with pop music and who look for a bag or jeans with a "prestige" foreign label. Such people rob themselves spiritually.

A harmonious development of the personality is the ideal for which all of us must strive. Every city in which military schools are located has a mass of interesting things: museums, exhibits, theaters, monuments of architecture, historical sights. Enter this beautiful world and use its riches more boldly.

Air Tactics Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 84 p 2

[Letter from Gds Capt V. Krasnikov, Red Banner Central Asian Military District, and commentary by Maj Gen Avn M. Kuznetsov, chief of staff of Red Banner Central Asian Military District Aviation: "A Competent Opinion: 'Attention! We're Approaching the Forward Line!'"]

[Text] I am writing this letter under the effects of a heated discussion which the pilots of our squadron held in a break between classes. It was about the need and methods of marking the forward line in modern combat. Opinions were divided. Some believe that, as in the Great Patriotic War, previously tested means in combination with new means must be used to mark it. Others express the opinion that there is no longer a need to mark the forward line since combat actions will be distinguished by high speed and maneuverability. Which of the officers is right?

Gds Capt V. Krasnikov
Red Banner Central Asian Military
District

Maj Gen Avn M. Kuznetsov, chief of staff of Red Banner
Central Asian Military District Aviation, comments on the
letter.

The need for precise mutual recognition of ground troops and aviation during combat is dictated by the interests of successful coordination of different combat arms. It was for this purpose that authentication signals were developed in the Great Patriotic War: various combinations of panels, bonfires, flares, smokepots.

Has the need for mutual designation and identification of ground troops and aviation disappeared in modern combat? Of course not. To the contrary, the wide use of electronic warfare capabilities, swift troop maneuvers over great distances and the use of tactical airborne assault forces has made authentication signs and signals even more necessary. The experience of tactical flying exercises held under conditions approximating those of real combat to the maximum indicate that where signals about the location of forward positions are given correctly and promptly the assigned missions are accomplished more

successfully. Unfortunately the development of mutual recognition signals is ignored during preparation for exercises in which aviation and ground troops must interact, and precision of command and control is not always assured. In such cases moments arise in the dynamics of combat where air support does not produce the desired effect and there is a possibility that a strike will be delivered against empty "enemy" trenches.

Of course it is hardly advisable today to copy the techniques and methods of mutual recognition of troops and the designation of a forward line which were used in the war years. The panels, bonfires and lanterns were intended for a relatively slow flight speed. Now, however, a crew flies at transonic or supersonic speed and at extremely low altitude. The obvious advantage here lies with radio signals and radio commands. This is why radiotechnical means gained extensive use for mutual recognition with the development of jet aviation. Now a forward air controller in the combat formations of motorized rifle or tank subunits during a tactical flying exercise plays an important role in assuring their precise coordination with air crews. Maintaining radio communications with the leader of a group of aircraft or with individual crews, he orients them with respect to the conditional forward line and strike objectives.

During actual combat the forward air controller may be disabled. It is important for the commanders of motorized rifle subunits and their deputies to be able to perform the duties of a forward air controller if necessary. To do this they have to thoroughly study air tactics and the tactical capabilities of modern aircraft and helicopters.

Where commanders take an innovative approach to organizing for combat and make skillful use of the capabilities of modern equipment, they usually find effective and often new possibilities for designating the forward line and strike objectives. Once I saw an experienced commander attach a short-range radio-technical navigation system to the control point team operating in an exercise and this made it considerably easier to orient the pilots in the situation and the layout of positions.

It is understandable that in actual combat the enemy will create all possible interference for radiotechnical equipment and so methods of mutual recognition and designation of ground troops and aviation must be sought that are independent of jamming. Exercise experience and the determined, purposeful search by commanders and specialists with initiative are producing practical results.

But there can be no all-encompassing recommendations here that are identically suitable in any tactical situation. The more signaling variations we develop, the higher the likelihood of success. Initiative and imaginative use of specific conditions and capabilities bring success in organizing mutual recognition and designation of ground troops and aviation.

Officer Family Problems

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 84 p 2

[Letter by Ye. Sheherbina: "I'd Like to Continue the Discussion: We are Proud of Such a Life"]

[Text] I read an article in KRSNAYA ZVEZDA for February entitled "City Registration" and I got up the nerve to take up the pen myself. The article excited me a great deal because it touches on the far from simple problems of the young family, an officer family. I don't know how it is for some, but specifically this fact is especially important for me. I always believed that the officer family is a special family. The bonds here have to be especially firm, like the very character of the people whose profession it is to defend the Motherland and whose feelings are pure and vivid. It cannot be otherwise, as difficult ordeals fall to the lot of such a family: ordeals by long separations and poorly organized everyday living. They have to be overcome together; only then is one destined to experience genuine family happiness and only then will hearts beat in unison.

Unfortunately that is not yet happening for Viktor and Tanya, about whom the article told. They are now confused; they didn't expect such a turn in their life. Viktor and Tanya sincerely love each other and now there already are three of them--a son was born. One might ask what else is needed for genuine happiness. It turns out that city registration also is necessary and with it all kinds of accompanying everyday conveniences. And what is important (I would even say sad) is that they did not arrive at that "discovery" themselves. Tat'yana's parents arrived at it and now they are trying to impress on her in every way that her place is only next to them in a city apartment, but in no case at the remote post where Viktor is serving.

Viktor loves Tat'yana, but he also loves his service; he understands his duty and so he is ready to serve where national interests require it. And Tat'yana has to be proud of him although she is being taught to condemn him.

Some readers may object to what I say, alleging that I am exaggerating. The parents allegedly simply became accustomed to coddling their daughter excessively; they love her very much and one can't give orders to the heart. And, they say, do I myself have the right to condemn them for this?

No, one must be able to give orders to one's heart when it is a question of other hearts.

With regard to myself... I have lived an eventful life. My husband was an officer and we were happy. I traveled almost the entire country with my husband. What ordeals didn't fall to my lot? No, I am not right: to our lot. We had everything in common. The joys and sorrows, the victories and failures. We lived in dugouts and tents, in areas of fierce cold and places of unbearable heat. But our love and the readiness to overcome everything, to cope with everything and perform our duty to the Motherland was stronger than all adversities and foul weather.

We raised and brought up two sons. One followed his father's path and became an officer. He loves his trade and serves on a remote post in a very hot climate. It isn't easy for him, but he doesn't complain. His wife also does not grumble at the difficulties. By the way, before meeting my son her life was shaping up similar to that of Tat'yana's. She grew up in a large city and received a higher education, but she shared her husband's fate without any vacillation or doubt. They are happy and I, their mother, am happy as well.

I just don't know whether or not this feeling is to be experienced by those parents who clip the wings of the passions and desires of their sons and daughters, "grounding" their thoughts to the trivia of everyday routine and apparent tranquility and thus striking from their lives the most vivid pages-- the pages of youth, daring youth.

Work of Cadet Deputy

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 84 p 2

[Letter from Gds Capt A. Lysenko, motorized rifle company commander, and response by Cadet I. Balukov, deputy to the Volgogradskiy Rayon Soviet of People's Deputies of the city of Moscow: "You Gave the Address: With the Powers of a Deputy"]

[Text] Dear Editors! The speech by Comrade K. U. Chernenko at the April 1984 CPSU Central Committee Plenum and materials of the 1st Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th Convocation, placed great emphasis on an improvement in the work of soviets, the political foundation of the USSR and a powerful tool of socialist construction. There are many servicemen among the people's deputies, including well-known military leaders, Army and Navy political officers, unit [soyedineniye and chast'] commanders, chiefs of military educational institutions and establishments, and officers of military commissariats. There also are young soldiers in the soviets. Recently I saw a newspaper picture of a cadet with a deputy's badge. It was Ivan Balukov from the Moscow Higher Combined-Arms Command School imeni RSFSR Supreme Soviet. It is noteworthy that the young people are gaining access to state activities and are adopting the experience of their seniors in the soviets. I would like to know what assignments the soviet is giving to its cadet deputy.

Gds Capt A. Lysenko
Motorized Rifle Company Commander

At the editors' request the reader's questions are answered
by Cadet I. Balukov, deputy to the Volgogradskiy Rayon
Soviet of People's Deputies of the city of Moscow.

Recently one of our seminars was discussing socialist democracy. In speaking at the seminar, one could say that I also answered the questions posed in the letter from Gds Capt Lysenko.

The soviet to which I was elected as deputy some two years ago has many merited people renowned for their work who are known far beyond the rayon and

city. They have extensive life experience behind them. In fulfilling the soviet's assignments and the electors' behests and in participating in the work of permanent commissions and deputy groups, they rely not only on the broad rights of one elected by the people, but also on enormous personal authority.

The young deputies--and young people in our rayon soviet are well represented--have less of both life experience and merits. For us work in the soviet really is a school for which we will be grateful all our lives. But I cannot fail to emphasize that this school is a practical one. No allowance is made in it for youth. One not only has to participate in the work of sessions but also accomplish specific assignments.

Deputy Group 24, which includes me, is constantly in action. Recently, together with senior comrades A. Martynov and Z. Panova, I handled the problem of repairs to a heating line in the vicinity of a residential compound adjoining the school. I held a reception of electors as prescribed for deputies. For example, I had to examine a complaint about repairs to one of the houses that had dragged on and assist in getting a telephone installed in the apartment of a Great Patriotic War participant. I was assigned to analyze the character of letters and petitions from electors and draw up appropriate recommendations. I participated in drawing up draft resolutions on a number of issues to be brought up for soviet discussion. I have noticed that in the organizations to which I turn as a deputy my opinion is regarded attentively and respectfully. Of course, that is how it should be. At the same time it seems that even my youth plays a positive role here.

At the seminar I said that democracy is the essence of our way of life. It is just as natural for us as the air we breathe. I referred to my personal life. I was born and brought up in the small Belorussian village of Svensk in the family of a kolkhoz member. When not yet 20 years old I became a people's deputy in one of the rayons of our Motherland's capital.

Don't the additional duties affect studies? I will say frankly that it became more difficult and my time was packed, but my feeling of responsibility also was heightened. The title of deputy obligates one and I don't forget this for a minute. At one time I completed secondary school with a gold medal. I try to study excellently in this school as well and become a thoroughly prepared commander. I help comrades in everything.

I am learning the ability to work with people, delve into their needs and understand their wants from Col V. Chemisov, chief of the school political department, who is also a deputy to the rayon soviet of people's deputies.

On seeing me off to Moscow to the military school my father told me: "The more you are needed by people, the more interesting life is." By the way, for many years he was elected a deputy to the rural soviet of people's deputies and was awarded the Order of Labor Red Banner. What could be higher than to feel oneself necessary and useful to people, the party and the country? I reread many times the words addressed to people's deputies which were heard at the recent CPSU Central Committee plenum and at the 1st Session of the USSR

Supreme Soviet. For me they have become a mandate for the period of my deputy powers and they will remain in my heart forever.

An Officer's Word

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 84 p 2

[Series of letters: "From the 'Dialogue' Mail: A Matter of Honor"]

[Text] "For some reason it seems to me that the expression 'an officer's word' has been undeservedly forgotten in our intercourse." That was how Engr-Capt-Lt B. Orlov ended his letter, which was published on the January "Dialogue" page. In numerous responses to it, the readers continue the discussion which was begun.

This happened recently. For some reason one of our officers was in a hurry when suddenly a private came up to him with a request. "Fine, I'll look into it," the officer tossed off on the move, but later he got wrapped up in something else, as they say, and forgot his promise. The fact is that the question was a trifling one and needed no special effort to be resolved. I noticed that this private didn't come to the officer with anything any more. He apparently reasoned that it would be all for nothing.

That is how important a sense of obligation is, not only in major matters, but in the small things as well.

Sr Lt I. Tashkinov

How generous some officers are to give promises at the beginning of the training period when socialist pledges are being made. We will do this and we will achieve that, they say. All this is among the people for all to hear. But when things come down to summing up results they look for justifications. They are given a slight rebuke, especially if the pledges were "a bit" underfulfilled, and then the same thing is repeated after awhile. Subordinates see all this, some adopt this "life experience," and they too begin to toss words about without ceremony. Isn't that why it comes about that there is at times no strict demand placed on the "promisers" and that an atmosphere of intolerance toward them has not been created everywhere?

Sr Lt V. Yartsev

Once I was literally several hours late performing a job assigned me and heard the reproach: "And an officer at that." I was about to give an excuse that I already was retired and had not done what I had promised on time because I got sick--former wounds and contusions are making themselves known more and more often. But I was silent and took the criticism as proper. Yes, I am retired, but people remember that I am a former military man and they believe that such a sacred concept as the "officer's word" never will be "retired" for me. They are correct. But even more, how can one who serves now not cherish an officer's word?

Col (Ret) A. Antonenko
Great Patriotic War participant

A month ago we were preparing for a holiday in school. "Lads," I told my Octobrists, "soldiers will be coming to visit us." I said it confidently with enthusiasm because I had spoken with political worker Officer Mikhail Petrovich Maysyuk, and he had given a firm promise.

Then came this sunny, happy day for the boys, but our guests didn't come and didn't come. I went to the telephone and couldn't get anyone. Then I was told that Maysyuk was here at school: he had come to pick up his first grade son. I ran outside and barely caught him. "What?" asked the officer in surprise. "Didn't anyone really come? That's strange."

It was only five minutes before the holiday was to begin. Again I ran to the phone and fortunately got hold of Comrade A. Moiseyev, who heads the party organization. Aleksandr Alekseyevich helped out. The soldiers who came to us obviously had been working somewhere since their uniforms were not the cleanest, but that didn't matter. The Octobrists were given to understand that our guests had been on an exercise and so had been delayed.

That's how it happened. It's disappointing. A political officer who didn't keep his word...

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Personnel Problem Avoided

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Col A. Zakharenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "The Guilty is Promoted"]

I arrived in this garrison with a letter to the editor written by Lieutenant Colonel S. Yevtushik in my possession. Significant shortcomings in the maintenance of combat equipment and armament were discovered in the battalion under his command. "We received a low grade," the author of the letter writes, "primarily at the fault of Major A. Zhigunov. Nonetheless he is being promoted to a higher position. How could this be so? This is extremely unjust."

And so political officer M. Shepelev and I sifted through the documents in an effort to reconstruct the events that had occurred not so long ago. Specifically speaking, everything here was clear to Shepelev as well as to the other officers of the unit's political department and staff, since they were what we may refer to as witnesses of what had occurred. Understandably the culprits were immediately given their deserved punishment. Battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel S. Yevtushik was demoted to a lower position, and other officials also suffered disciplinary and party punishments. However, the direct culprits of the incident, primarily former battalion deputy commander Major A. Zhigunov, were left unpunished. He was a former deputy because after the military and party investigation came to its end, this officer accepted a new, higher position. In a word, they were too late in the unit to subject Major Zhigunov to the full punishment he deserved.

"Is it right to congratulate an officer on promotion to a higher position today and then punish him tomorrow for old sins? What would happen to his authority in the eyes of his new subordinates?" reasoned Officer Shepelev.

By the way, let us return to Officer's Yevtushik's letter once again: "I was born in 1941, a hard year. My father died at the front. Understandably, my childhood was not the easiest. I graduated from secondary school and was drafted into the Soviet Army. Following military service I followed my dream

and enrolled in a military school. I graduated from it with honors. I began my service in the unit with great diligence and reasonably good successes. With time, I grew to battalion commander."

It was during this time period that Captain Yevtushik came to know Lieutenant Zhigunov, a graduate from a higher military school. A little introverted but capable, the young officer impressed the battalion commander. The latter was especially grateful for his deep knowledge of combat equipment and armament, and the battalion commander always gave him the most important work.

As far as Lieutenant Zhigunov was concerned, he had an extremely unique impression of his relationship to the commander: Without me, he thought, the battalion would fall apart. And if that is so, then I don't always have to follow the rules. In doing all of the maintenance jobs for example. And if something is missed, the commander will forgive.

And Officer Yevtushik forgave, though at the bottom of his soul he could not understand how anyone could work differently from the way he did, having been trained for precision and punctuality since childhood. Once when he revealed a number of shortcomings while checking the condition of combat equipment, a question came to his mind: Why had the Officer Zhigunov not discovered them? One thing could not be doubted: Zhigunov's efforts to monitor the condition of the equipment were only for show. Officer Yevtushik endeavored to say something about this to him with all sincerity, but he stopped himself: He did not want to cause any conflicts. And outwardly their relationships remained as before, though inside, of course, they grew tense. "What is the explanation for the fact that Zhigunov should have and could have done everything to put order into equipment maintenance, but that he did not do this?" was the question that tormented Officer Yevtushik. A mistrust toward his subordinate which suddenly came into being made itself known in his eyes and in his voice. Zhigunov could sense this.

Once unit headquarters telephoned with the question:

"Stepan Semenovich, who would be worthy of becoming your deputy?"

Yevtushik almost said:

"Zhigunov of course."

But instead of these words, this thought ran through his mind: "He could, all right, he knows enough to do the job. But will he work like he is supposed to?"

"Let me talk with the deputy for political affairs," Officer Yevtushik replied at that time.

Battalion deputy commander for political affairs Major S. Gavrilov was an officer with sufficient experience in the military, and he was good at reading people. He shook his head:

"No, not Zhigunov. The job is an awful lot of trouble, and it needs someone who does not mind working overtime."

They decided to recommend Senior Lieutenant A. Shchukin, a diligent and conscientious officer, for promotion. This was the biggest possible insult to Zhigunov and, perhaps unaware himself, he began working at half his capacity, often proving himself to be a hindrance than a help. In short, the battalion commander needed to do something drastic to set the man straight. It cannot be said that Officer Yevtushik did not dress his subordinate down for his misdemeanors: He did, but only for appearance's sake, so as not to strain their relationship. It was at this time that his friends made the suggestion in jest: It's time to promote Stepan Semenovich. This was an enticing idea to Yevtushik. And so he began insistently recommending Zhigunov for higher vacated positions--somewhere outside the battalion. This bore its fruit in the end. The officer that had been "so much trouble" was assigned to another garrison.

Not yet fully recognizing that he had sinned against his conscience, Officer Yevtushik found no pleasure in his artful move. Time passes. At first there was nothing to suggest that there was going to be trouble--all Lieutenant Colonel Yevtushik heard were rumors that Major Zhigunov, who was unable to do his job, had been dismissed from his position. Later on the word came out from the unit that he was to be returned to the battalion. And, moreover, as deputy commander. "This must not happen," Yevtushik firmly resolved. He telephoned the unit's headquarters and political department and the higher authorities. But his arguments held no sway. The decision had been made: Let Major Zhigunov serve under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Yevtushik, an experienced officer who knew Zhigunov. There, he could get to know his official duties better.

And so Yevtushik once again found himself between a rock and a hard place. Major Zhigunov preferred to work to please himself, and not the commander, blaming him for all sins, even ones that might have been nonexistent. These petty strains did in fact have a unfavorable influence on the state of affairs in the battalion. "After checking the condition of the equipment and giving orders to correct the shortcomings," wrote Lieutenant Colonel Yevtushik to the editor, "Major Zhigunov essentially did nothing to correct them, even though he said he did. This has happened on more than one occasion."

And then Lieutenant Colonel Yevtushik decided that it was time to set things straight. No, he did not report the state of affairs up the chain of command. He decided to resort once again to an unpermitted but outwardly magnanimous and already tested method: to get rid of the inconvenient officer by promoting him to a job elsewhere. This in fact did happen soon after. Talking with his senior chief, the battalion commander recommended Major Zhigunov for a higher position. Political worker Major S. Gavrilov made the same recommendation when he met with a representative of the political organ. A performance report on Major Zhigunov was demanded, and it was written out in the most laudatory way. Not long after, the recommendation was sent up the chain of command. But what happened next, they did not foresee.

The battalion had its inspection at a time when the commander was absent due to official business. His deputy, Major Zhigunov, was in charge. But as before,

he worked without zeal, doing little to make sure that the equipment would operate faultlessly. Certain shortcomings were revealed during the inspection. The senior chief set an adequate deadline for their correction. We would think that Major Zhigunov, who was anticipating a new assignment, would attack the problem with vigor. But he was too much in a hurry to complete his task. It was not until now that Lieutenant Colonel Yevtushik, who had become accustomed to "avoiding friction in his relationships" and "avoiding conflicts," insisted that Communist Zhigunov's attitude toward his work should be discussed by the party. Such a discussion was held, but as we would expect, it did not produce any tangible benefit. A tendency in the communists that apparently originated with the battalion commander himself--rounding the corners, looking for ways to avoid facing acute problems--had its effect.

Inspired by this lack of principles Zhigunov stopped trying at all. A second inspection conducted following the scheduled time period revealed no less shortcomings in equipment maintenance than did the first, the surprise inspection. By this time the order appointing Major Zhigunov to a new position had already been signed, and he had left for his new place of service.

I was told at unit headquarters and in the political department that both officers recognized their mistakes and that they were sorry for what happened.

"Twenty-three years I gave to the military, and look how everything has turned out," Lieutenant Colonel Yevtushik grieved.

It would have been better if I had been punished in the severest way: My conscience is giving me no rest," said Major Zhigunov.

I think that the senior chief will make the necessary conclusions from what happened, and that he will take steps to put things right in the battalion and unit discussed in the letter.

Maintaining Neat Appearance

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Capt A. Voznyuk: "Your Appearance"]

[Text] "Your appearance is not the best today: Your tunic is rumpled, and your trousers are not ironed."

But there's not going to be an inspection today. We'll be working in the combat vehicle motor pool. And that's no place to worry about appearance."

(From a conversation between two young officers.)

This dialogue, of which I was a witness, compelled me to respond to the letter written by Guards Major M. Bogatyrev. Who does not know what the requirements on an officer's appearance are? They are spelled out in the manuals and in other guidelines, and they are often recalled to us by commanders. Nonetheless we still have officers who wear their uniform carelessly. Once I

saw a lieutenant scolding a private for a dirty undercollar and unshined shoes. The soldier stood with his eyes lowered, and the officer waved his hands violently before him as he listed all of his present and past shortcomings. These motions caused the shoulderboard on his right shoulder to rip away revealing the sparse stitches with which it had been secured to the tunic. It is a pity that a person cannot see himself as he really is. At this moment the young officer should have been ashamed.

Later on as I was talking to the lieutenant he gave the excuse that his wife had left for a visit with her parents, that he was alone with much work to do, and thus he had no time to take care of himself. No time.... This could hardly be a justification for slovenliness. I think that time spent on putting the uniform in order would have made it unnecessary to spend a lot of time reading notices concerning respect for the uniform. Looking at a neat platoon commander, subordinates would try to measure up to him. This is a truth that requires no proof.

Platoon commander Lieutenant P. Paskhal'nyy comes to mind. He became a model to us, the cadets, of an officer's attitude toward his appearance, toward his uniform. Today Major Petr Ivanovich Paskhal'nyy teaches and indoctrinates cadets, though now in the position of an instructor. But he has not lost his commander's strictness and exactness toward himself. His example and his exactness did not pass by us without effect. No matter which one of my classmates I meet, I always see a reminder of Paskhal'nyy's influence: the same neatness, bearing and exemplary appearance. The saying that subordinates are a mirror of their commander is true.

Lieutenant A. Devyatov distinguished himself by many good things, especially by good instructor training, in the unit in which I served immediately after graduating from school. At one time the platoon under his command was in good graces in terms of technical and fire training. But Devyatov did not concern himself with his appearance. On occasion he himself might come to work in a rumpled tunic and unshined shoes, and he would not make any demands on his subordinates. He did not see anything bad about a slovenly appearance, as long as the soldiers could do their work well.

But one thing is known: If an officer is careless with his clothes, he is not much good at his work either. And Lieutenant Devyatov could not see the harm this was doing to indoctrination of his subordinates. Sensing the commander's slow exactingness, they became indifferent to their work. Once during an inspection the unit commander sent all of the personnel of the platoon back to the barracks to put themselves in order, with Lieutenant Devyatov at their lead. His subordinates also made a poor show in their final examinations at that time.

Lieutenant Devyatov came to understand his mistaken position, and he found the strength to correct the situation. But this cost him a great deal of labor and a considerable amount of time.

Why do we still come across officers within the military posts and on city streets who maintain a far from exemplary appearance? I think that the most important cause is low exactingness displayed toward them by commanders and chiefs, who also apparently feel this to be something unimportant. Many times I have been a witness of an officer coming to an official conference in a rumpled uniform and dirty shoes, and no one reprimanding him for doing so, as if this was something of minor importance.

It would not be superfluous in my opinion to give an incisive, objective talk on an officer's appearance and on respect of the military uniform at a meeting of the officers. And of course, the main thing that it needed is the personal example of the commander or chief: Experience shows that this is a very effective means of indoctrinating subordinates.

Officer's Personal Example

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Col V. Nagornyy, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "An Exacting Conversation"]

[Text] Guards Major M. Bogatyrev's letter "The Personal Example of An Officer" produced a lively response among the subunits, units, ships and military schools. Considering the importance and urgency of the issue raised on the pages of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the political directorate of the National Air Defense Forces recommended discussion of the letter at officer meetings. According to reports from our correspondents, the same recommendations have been made in the Order of Lenin Moscow and the Red Banner Baltic military districts and in the Southern Group of Forces.

A report of an officer meeting held in a certain air defense unit is published below.

It all has to do with our nature as people: When we are agitated by something, when something has touched the strings of our hearts, we invariably wish to share our thoughts with others, not just to validate our own convictions or doubts but also to listen to the opinions of friends. And behold, through heated debate we manage to arrive at the truth, to develop a common viewpoint on a given problem. Thus a natural desire of officers of a certain leading air defense unit to gather together as a good family and conduct a frank, exacting conversation on personal example, on the shortcomings existing in the work and in behavior and on how to correct these shortcomings was a natural reaction to Guards Major M. Bogatyrev's letter to the editor.

Lieutenant Colonel V. Belokopytov, the unit's propagandist, gave a short but substantial report at the officer meeting. Recalling the contents of the letter written by Guards Major M. Bogatyrev, he noted that the concern of each officer for personal example is, in the final analysis, a manifestation of

self-indoctrination, of an effort to improve one's work, moral and political qualities, which are the decisive prerequisites of gaining and retaining respect. In this connection the officers dwelled in detail on the premises stated in the election campaign speech given by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade K. U. Chernenko, laying special emphasis on his ideas concerning the Leninist work style and concerning the fact that the strength of a leader lies in his ability to merge official authority with personal authority into a single unit.

It was precisely in this way--broadly and at several levels--that the participants of the meeting examined the question raised concerning the personal example of an officer. The personnel of this unit demonstrate good results in training and in combat duty, and they rightfully occupy a leading place in the socialist competition. Figures like these are impressive: Seventy-five percent of the officers have higher class ratings, and one out of every four is a master. But the speakers at the meeting, who shared the point of view of the letter's author, felt it necessary to focus attention not on successes but on things that were left out in indoctrination; they felt it necessary to level impartial criticism against those who sometimes strayed from the manuals and the rules of communist morality.

Lieutenant Colonel S. Kutovoy's speech was passionate and rousing. He named a number of officers whose work was a model of faithfulness to military duty. Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel V. Dodonov, Major A. Lyamin, Captain V. Andreyev. It was with these and other commanders, political workers and military engineers that the speaker associated many of the achievements of the subunit personnel in fulfilling their socialist pledges and raising combat readiness. These commanders were successful in indoctrinating their subordinates also because personal example is at the basis of their official activities.

"And how bitter it is to admit," said Lieutenant Colonel Kutovoy, "that an officer is losing his authority and the trust of all with whom he works."

He discussed the work shortcomings of Captain A. Solonskiy in this connection. When he was entrusted with the command of a company, Officer Solonskiy decided to train his subunits in such a way that "it could not be ignored," in his words. But the methods he selected for attaining his goal were more than doubtful. He substituted meticulous indoctrination of the personnel with rough administration. Some officers and sergeants did not wait long to follow his example, something which Captain Solonskiy chose to overlook. The subunit, which had held the lead some time before, began slipping one notch after another. Solonskiy suffered severe punishment for the mistakes he made in indoctrinating his subordinates.

Not all who were sitting in the auditorium were aware of this example, because the officer collective experiences a turnover from one year to the next. But many of the speakers found facts "of more recent vintage," as they say. Engineer-majors A. Polyakov and S. Khokhlov and Major A. Prikupets gave a graphic and persuasive demonstration of where the strength of personal example lies. It is difficult to instill good work and moral qualities in subordinates

if you do not possess them yourself. You cannot teach anyone anything else if there are gaps in your own knowledge. The conclusion is simple: Everything must begin with yourself.

Company commander Captain V. Andreyev had a difficult beginning in his new position. Captain G. Kudinov left him with an unenviable "legacy." The former company commander was unable to get many things done because he himself was not a good example in work. The effect of his own attitude toward his responsibilities immediately influenced the work. Cases of irregular mutual relationships appeared. In the end, Kudinov was dismissed from his post as subunit commander and transferred to a job not requiring him to indoctrinate the men.

Assuming command of the company, Captain Andreyev quickly got to the bottom of his predecessor's mistakes. Exacting toward himself and others, he waged a resolute struggle to make the officers and sergeants serve as personal examples. The company commander was himself faultless in this regard. Captain Andreyev organized the training process knowledgeably, and he conducted lessons in special training and other disciplines with methodological competency. The officer could perform gymnastics or demonstrate drill movements on the marching pad with enviable skill, he could reveal the causes of malfunctions in complex apparatus, and he could present interesting political briefings. Thus owing to his own diligence and his responsible attitude toward his work, Captain Andreyev raised the formerly unsuccessful subunit to a leading position, and he was able to instill many moral qualities in the soldiers such as honesty, collectivism and persistence in pursuing one's goals.

A discussion of the development of young officers occupied a special place in the meeting. And this is understandable. Future lieutenants receive good training behind the walls of military schools. But they also have to pick up a great deal from practice and experience. This is why senior comrades show so much concern for raising young replacements for themselves in the unit. Words of praise were addressed to Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel P. Yakimov, Major A. Filimonov and others who feel indoctrination of young officers to be a matter of honor. And, sensing the dependable support of veterans and imitating them in everything, senior lieutenants N. Shvets and N. Polivoda and lieutenants M. Podgornyy and N. Kudymov are confidently multiplying their successes.

However, it was emphasized in the statements made by officers V. Dodonov, A. Travnikov and L. Murzintsev, meticulous indoctrination of lieutenants has nothing in common with patronage. The young officers must themselves raise their self-exactingness, and learn independence and diligence. Otherwise mistakes and problems in the work would be inevitable.

So it was once with Officer M. Martynenko. His lack of discipline caused him to lose his authority. The officer began drinking, and then things began to fall apart in his family. It ended with Martynenko being retired into the reserves early.

This incident raised some concern when it was recalled during the meeting: Were there any people in the collective who sometimes soiled the merit of a Soviet officer? Unfortunately, they had to assert that there was. Major V. Kuznetsov cited Lieutenant A. Suslov, who once tried to deceive his commander and displayed dishonesty. Of course, he was still young, he had just recently joined our unit, and we hoped, the speaker said, that the incident would be a good lesson for him and for those who still do not always measure their behavior up to the regulations and the rules of our morality.

It was from the positions of high exactingness toward oneself and toward comrades in the military that Guards Major M. Bogatyrev's letter was discussed in the unit. The thoughts and proposals of the participants of the officer meeting were reflected in the resolution they adopted. To be even more intolerant of shortcomings, to show constant concern for maintaining a personal example as being a decisive prerequisite of purposeful work: These are the conclusions that every officer made for himself.

Training Violations

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Col A. Andryushkov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "The Insult Need Not Have Occurred"]

[Text] Captain A. Shuvalov, an aircraft flight commander, wrote the following in a letter to the editor: "I have been flying for over 10 years. I have learned to fly several types of airplanes. A year ago I left the Far Eastern Military District for a new position. I began learning to fly a type of fighter that was new to me. I had never had to learn complex maneuvers before, and therefore I experienced some difficulties. This was not to the liking of the regiment commander, Colonel D. Tenditnikov, and so he decided to wash his hands of me. He is prejudicial toward me, and he would permit me to fly only paired up with him, and not even in combat aircraft. And now, I have been completely barred from flying." The letter went on to describe the callousness, roughness and personal difficulties which the officer's family encountered in the new garrison.

The unit commander, Military Pilot-Sniper Colonel D. Tenditnikov, read his subordinate's letter without haste, thoughtfully, from time to time returning to passages he had already read.

"And if you were in my place, would you allow a pilot to take off if you were not sure that he would be able to complete his flying assignment?" he suddenly asked, tearing himself away from the letter. And, beginning with his personal complaints, he told me that the housing problem had already been solved, and that the pilot's family did receive a separate apartment despite the housing difficulties of the garrison.

But things were much more difficult to explain when it came to flying. Shuvalov had flown fighter-interceptors for 10 years. But during this time, he

did not get any farther than pilot 2d class. Incidentally, when Shuvalov was transferred from the Far Eastern Military District, the principle of equal replacement was violated: A top-class pilot was sent there.

And so the captain had to be retrained, as is required by the appropriate documents. Squadron commander Major A. Goran'ko alone made 16 flights with him to practice the more complex aerobatic maneuvers. According to experience flight school graduates need only five flights to master this form of training in the type of fighter involved.

"Shuvalov displayed confusion while performing complex aerobatic maneuvers," Major A. Goran'ko continued the regiment commander's story. "Sometimes it was so difficult to predict his actions that I did not know what to expect from him in any following moment of flight."

Having decided that Shuvalov did nonetheless acquire sufficient skill, after 16 paired flights Major Goran'ko recommended the pilot for a check flight with the regiment commander. The captain flew about another 10 sorties with Tenditnikov. And each time his scores were low. But Shuvalov felt that he was flying fine.

The unit went more than half way because of his persistence. In addition to Colonel Tenditnikov, the formation's inspector-pilot also tested the officer in the air. And once again the opinion was the same: The pilot could not be allowed to fly solo. It was then that the regiment commander decided to temporarily restrict Shuvalov from solo flying. And he himself went off on leave. But Shuvalov still harbored his old opinion of himself: I know how to fly!

What is the root of such self-confidence? In my opinion it is a product of certain deviations from the accepted methods that occurred during the pilot's training in the unit. There were elements of a lack of control from the very start in Captain Shuvalov's retraining program. Thus the officer was unable to show me his personal schedule for recovering lost habits. Equally so, he was unable to furnish me his flight training notebook. Shuvalov gave this explanation: "I keep it at home rather than at squadron headquarters." Why? Because no one attached any significance to such "minor matters." Nor was any significance attached to regularly discussing and analyzing the problems of personnel training in meetings of the unit's training council. Had this been done, the training violations that subsequently occurred might not have happened.

After Colonel Tenditnikov went on leave, regiment deputy commander Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Podolyanko took charge of the pilot's training in complex aerobatics. What it was that led him to violate his chief's instructions to keep Shuvalov grounded until he returned from leave, is not known for sure. But violate those instructions he did, and the facts make that conclusion necessary.

Lieutenant Colonel Podolyanko is a military pilot-sniper, just like the regiment commander. He had spent a long time as an instructor in a flight school. He feels himself to be a good instructor. Why, he thought, should he not train another combat pilot while the commander is on leave?

"You can even teach a bear to fly," Podolyanko told me. He said about the same thing to Shuvalov as well. This was extremely encouraging to the latter. Thus he instilled premature confidence in his possibilities and capabilities in the pilot. Podolyanko flew but two (!) check flights with Captain Shuvalov before he gave his "OK" for solo flying. Was this a pedagogical success? Were the pilot's skills at their peak? Alas, Podolyanko did not feel confident at that time in Shuvalov's actions, and he instructed him to fly without performing the vertical piloting maneuvers. And it was apparently because of his own doubts as to Shuvalov's possibilities that Lieutenant Colonel Podolyanko did not post a grade for flight training in the officer's flight book that day. Nor did he write down his conclusion in the flight certification section. He knew quite well, after all, that a pilot without properly filled out flight documents is not entitled to take off!

"I did not complete all the required elements of complex aerobatics at that time," Shuvalov admitted to me. "The weather would not permit vertical maneuvers."

The officer was not entirely truthful. The notes in his flight book show that on the days when Shuvalov was performing aerobatic maneuvers solo, the weather was completely cloudless, with excellent horizontal visibility--not less than 8 kilometers. The conditions were ideal. And Shuvalov did not even give an answer to my question as to why he had written in his reporting documents that he completed a certain exercise when he actually performed a different, simpler one. He would not admit that he himself was not confident as to whether he could fulfill his assignment completely, since he knew where he was weak. But judging from everything, he hoped that the violation of training procedures would pass unnoticed, and that he could get out of this difficult phase of the retraining program faster.

"Anatoliy Vasil'yevich," I asked Shuvalov, did you not realize that you were committing the grossest violation of the flight laws when you took off without the appropriate certification in your flight book?"

"But Lieutenant Colonel Podolyanko gave me oral permission."

"I just didn't have enough time that day to sign the pilot's book," Podolyanko explained in turn.

Oh, but the troubles he did have! The regiment deputy commander became so busy that he forgot Captain Shuvalov's check flight until 3 months later. At that time Lieutenant Colonel Podolyanko wrote the following conclusion on the results of the pilot's check flight: "This pilot is permitted to fly training flights for the purposes of performing exercises in the combat training course, after five (!) check flights in aerobatic maneuvers. Overall grade for the flight: satisfactory." That is, this was in fact a prohibition. But the pilot flew anyway! In violation of all rules and procedures.

On returning from leave, Colonel Tenditnikov was considerably amazed on learning of this. But he avoided making any hasty conclusions: Who knows, perhaps

he had been excessively demanding of Shuvalov. And so he took off once again together with the captain. His piloting quality was just as it had been before--poor.

"The regiment commander evaluates my flying skills prejudiciously," Shuvalov repeated several times during the conversation. "He took it on his own to ground me."

But this accusation was unjust. Colonel Tenditnikov was reluctant to say what he really thought, even though he could see the danger of each of Shuvalov's take-offs. He did not want any trouble. Nonetheless, before making a final decision to ground the officer, Tenditnikov reported the situation to his senior chief, USSR Distinguished Military Pilot Colonel B. Urmanov. He personally took Captain Shuvalov out on a check flight, and he told the officer:

"There is no need to tempt fate."

Captain Shuvalov has now agreed to a transfer to another unit flying airplanes with which he is already familiar, and this question is now being examined at a higher level. The question begs itself: What, then, evoked the officer's letter to the editor? It turns out that in preparing his personal file for the transfer, Shuvalov had not been acquainted with one of the more recent performance reports; no one told him exactly what his shortcomings were. And so, feeling insulted, he decided in the end that the regiment commander was behaving prejudiciously toward him in all aspects. Such was the conclusion, embarrassing to the unit commander, which resulted from this unique violation of indoctrination procedures compounded by violations in flight training procedures. And it is not all that simple to persuade Captain Shuvalov that something else was really amiss. It was with a feeling of insult in his heart that he signed himself out at the checkpoint of the regiment in which he had served for over a year. And such an insult need not have occurred.

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ARMED FORCES

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GROUND FORCES

MOTORIZED RIFLE BATTALION PASSES FIELD FIRING EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Lt Col M. Lishniy, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Such a Difficult Attack"]

[Text] "To maintain perfect mastery of entrusted weapons and combat equipment. To pass all tactical exercises, including at night, with grades of excellent and good, and field firing exercises only with a grade of excellent." This is one of the items in the pledges of personnel of the Proskurovskiy Motorized Rifle Regiment--the initiators of the socialist competition in the ground troops. Motorized riflemen of the Proskurovskiy regiment demonstrated high skill, especially in fire training, during the final examinations of the winter training period. Soldiers of the companies commanded by senior lieutenants V. Burlov and O. Andrianov and of the artillery battalion under the command of Major V. Anoshin shot like snipers.

A report on the most important and difficult examination for the initiators of the competition--a battalion field firing tactical exercise--is published below.

Motorized rifle battalion commander Captain R. Kereyev once again surveyed the terrain to make sure that he had made the right decision, and then he brought the microphone to his lips:

"'Birch Tree', this is 'Granite'. Three-two-two. 'Hail'."

The air immediately shuddered in response to a gun salvo. In front, beyond the combat formations of the advance party, dirt shot up in dark plumes, and bits of the disintegrating wooden target flew in all directions. A minute later the "enemy" strongpoint was engulfed in smoke and flames. Artillery preparation for the attack was being conducted by, in addition to the battalion attached to the motorized riflemen, a mortar battery under the command of Senior Lieutenant V. Koleda. Taking cover behind a smoke screen, soldiers of a supporting antitank battery under the command of Captain S. Yatsenko advanced its guns for direct fire as well.

The battalion's main forces rushed forward to the attack line. It was evident from the inspector's armored personnel carrier that motorized riflemen were pouring out of the troop compartments of the fighting vehicles and rushing forward in the attack, keeping up with the tanks of the attached company. A fire storm engulfed targets that appeared on the forward edge and in the "enemy's" defenses. It was not difficult to see, even from far away, how effective the fire was.

Throughout the entire winter training period the regiment devoted serious attention to fire training. Emphasis was laid on using the best training procedures and putting trainers and technical training resources to extensive use. When lost time and inadequate logistical support to certain lessons were revealed at the beginning of the training year, the regiment commander, the staff and the party committee took these facts under keen, principled consideration.

Now the attackers were near the "enemy's" first trench.

The command "Grenades, fire!" flew over the extended line. Targets simulating surviving "enemy" infantry were engulfed by clouds produced by the exploding grenades.

And then, forward once again. The momentum of the offensive was high, even though the motorized riflemen were walking over loose sand and earth plowed up by shells and caterpillar tracks.

A report given by company commander Senior Lieutenant Ye. Komarnitskiy could be heard through the earphones of the radio set tuned to the battalion commander's wavelength. He communicated that the "enemy" was bringing up his reserves in the direction of "Oval" Hill.

This hill seemed to be just an arm's reach away. But it was not all that simple to forestall the "enemy" in reaching a tactically advantageous line. Fatigue was having its effect on the personnel's actions. Captain Kereyev made a decision: Capitalizing on his success on the right flank, he would advance aboard fighting vehicles while an artillery battalion would contain the "enemy" with fire and keep him from deploying into combat formation.

The driver-mechanics of the tanks and infantry fighting vehicles displayed high skill in this phase. Riddled with craters and trenches, the terrain was crossed at the fastest possible speed. When the motorized riflemen broke through to "Oval" Hill, the counterattacking "enemy" was still just beginning to approach it. Once again the fire of the battalion's subunits was lethal.

Deep in the defenses, meanwhile, the motorized rifle company under the command of Lieutenant T. Gareyev had committed to combat. It was dropped in the "enemy" rear by helicopters. The battalion commander made sure that the defenders would be kept from advancing new reserves from the rear, that the bridge across the river would be captured and that the highest momentum of the offensive of regiment's main forces would continue in the future.

The training battle came to an end. It was a successful and competent one. Such was the inspector's evaluation. The percentage of target hits was higher at all lines than required for an outstanding score. This meant that a dependable foundation for improving proficiency had been created in fire training. The tactical actions were competent as well. Nonetheless the inspector did note some mistakes in organizing reconnaissance and in fire control, and failures in coordination with attached and supporting subunits. The battalion received a good grade for tactics. There still are a few things to work on in the summer training period.

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GROUND FORCES

TROOPS' POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION CRITICIZED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Col V. Nikityuk, master of sport, and Lt Col V. Kirillov: "Reflections Following a Control Problem: Hoping for a 'Dash to the Finish'"]

[Text] Some subunits of the motorized rifle regiment received an unsatisfactory grade at a control problem in physical training held in March. Frankly speaking, this was an out of the ordinary incident, but was it so unexpected for the given unit?

...It was back in the fall inspection that the personnel of those same subunits "stumbled" in one of the important training subjects, receiving a two in physical training. In a discussion with senior officers the unit commander promised to take effective steps to improve the soldiers' conditioning.

All this naturally did not go unnoticed by the unit party organization as well. At a report-election party meeting party committee secretary Maj V. Orlov sharply criticized in his report the erroneous practice of coaching the subunits and having them "specialize" in individual training subjects. This would be done as follows: one company would be trained to run crosscountry "at a level," another to fire, a third to drive BMP's [infantry combat vehicles] and so on. The party members unanimously spoke out for vigorously remedying deficiencies and radically changing the attitude toward methods of personnel training. They seemed full of resolve to help the commander adjust the training process in the subunits.

The senior chiefs also were concerned with this. Experienced specialists, including in physical training, made repeated trips to the unit. They had the least luck of all. Matters reached a curious point. For example, officers arrived in February for reveille in the regiment and immediately headed for the athletic compound, but there was not a single motorized rifleman there. The inspectors sounded the alarm and phoned the regimental commander at his quarters, naturally apologizing for the early commotion. But the commander did not take much offense for the early awakening and answered:

"We won't try to correct the situation today, but I assure you that tomorrow everyone will be out for exercises."

Despite such assurances commission members again were in the athletic compound on the following morning and saw one soldier here.

Sorry statistics were uncovered: physical training was held in the regiment only one time in January and four times in February. Physical training classes also were disrupted regularly in the subunits. As a rule the subunits plan to hold them before firings, knowing in advance that the hour set aside for gymnastics, grenade throwing or crosscountry in fact will be spent on vehicular or dismounted movement to the firing range.

Mass sports work was not held at all on days off and holidays in a number of the subunits.

The regimental commander became annoyed on learning that the commission members had such statistics. No, he was not annoyed over the lost opportunities, but over the fact that "someone was informing." He began to refer to instructions from above, alleging that he was required to have the first shot at the range fired at 0830 hours. This order could be executed only by cancelling physical exercises and physical training classes.

As we already mentioned, a commission from higher headquarters held a physical training control problem in the regiment in March. It had a natural result: the subunits tested received unsatisfactory grades. As we see, there were no improvements for the better in the 4-5 months since the fall inspection.

Just how did the appointed persons responsible for the status of physical training in the regiment react to the situation at hand? They began to assure the inspectors that they would manage to adjust the practices before the final problems in spring and that all motorized riflemen would fulfill the norms, as was written in their individual socialist pledges.

"We'll draw the people up," unit officers assured commission members. "There's still time."

In fact, although not so very much time remained, it still permitted training privates, NCO's, warrant officers and officers. A bit more still could be done if classes were arranged with all seriousness and all reserves were used. And there are many reserves in the regiment: there are subunit commanders here who are masters of sport, and there are excellent methods specialists. It was no accident that company commander Sr Lt V. Fedoseyev was assigned to hold demonstration classes with subordinates at courses for physical training specialists.

And so they promised to pull the people up. It was apparently for this purpose that mass sports activities were held one Sunday. Just what part did the people who seemingly should have handled this take in organizing these activities? Party committee secretary Maj V. Orlov was supervising how a pump was being repaired in the boiler room. Maj V. Orlov responded in a very original

manner to the question of what party committee members had done to help the commander correct the alarming situation with physical training during the winter training period: Sr Lt A. Albul, the unit's chief of physical training and sport, was not a party member, but a Komsomol member and since that was so, the Komsomol committee had to demand an accounting of him. "We did," said Capt I. Kolotilov, Komsomol committee secretary, echoing his senior comrade (by the way, Kolotilov didn't even know that soldiers belonging to the Komsomol were participating in competitions that day). "We invited Albul in for a committee session. If necessary, we'll call him in again and hear him out..." But is an accounting to be demanded only of a single specialist? Does the party committee and Komsomol committee really have the right to look indifferently on the passiveness of officers who are party and Komsomol members and who are directly responsible for the level of subordinates' preparedness?

In short, they don't know here specifically of whom to demand an accounting for deficiencies in organizing the soldiers' physical conditioning and mass sports work. On the other hand, they are able to give an account of the work which has been done.

On the very Monday after competitions were held Lt Col N. Loginov, chairman of the unit sports committee, and Sr Lt A. Albul, chief of physical training, sent a report to higher echelons that the activities had been massive and tens of people passed the VSK [Military Sports Complex] norms.

We asked to be shown a list of names of those who passed the Military Sports Complex norms. Neither the chief of physical training nor the regimental staff had a list.

"There was nothing for us to write down," blurted Sr Lt Albul, "no one showed high results."

"But in the report you told about tens of people."

So it turned out that the report was an out-and-out falsehood.

But let's return to the subunits which received unsatisfactory grades in the March control problem. Which of them should be given immediate help?

Again, no one was able to answer this question either on the regimental staff or in the party or Komsomol committees. We set off for the subunits which had received "two's." Battalion officers Maj V. Shevalkin and Capt Yu. Kuts merely shrugged their shoulders:

"The commission didn't give us the evaluation sheets."

We inquired about the possibility that company and platoon commanders had written down the grades of their subordinates in order to have a clear picture. No, they too didn't remember the grades for the control problem or the indicators for passing the VSK norms.

The question arises: Is everyone here really counting on a "dash to the finish"? This hope would appear to be ephemeral. How a militarized cross-country race went in the regiment on the next day off serves as confirmation of this. There was a minimal load: run a kilometer and hit a target with a submachinegun. Alas, the result was poor. This is what it means to have "specialization," on which this unit is relying. Only genuine, comprehensive schooling is reliable.

6904

CSO: 1801/298

GROUND FORCES

POOR TRAINING PRODUCES POOR TRAINING RESULTS

Moscow KARSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Maj N. Khaust, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Belorussian Military District: "Is Electronics Really the Problem?"]

[Text] The first shift of shooters returned to the command post of the firing range. The light of the lamps revealed the faces of Captain V. Kudryavtsev and lieutenants A. Gusev and V. Vins in the darkness--sullen and displeased. It was clear even without any reports from the officers: The run was unsuccessful. Only platoon commander Lieutenant Vins received a good score, though even he could not have done so without the help of company commander Kudryavtsev, who mistakenly fired at the wrong targets.

"A top marksman would become confused in such a situation," the irritated company commander asserted as he attached the firing practice leader's arm band to his sleeve. "It was the electronics, it let us down."

The beginning of the final firing test of the subunit was in fact odd. The crews were unable to open fire until the third run. In the first case the targets did not appear anywhere: The operators forgot to turn on the power to the target lifting mechanisms--that was the explanation given. In the second case the targets appeared, but not all of them. And when the electronics of the firing range was finally worked out, the shooters were too exhausted.

During one run the exercise had to be carried out by platoon commander Lieutenant I. Koshlyak and gunner-operators A. Boldyrev and M. Puzenko. Judging from the record books they had never fired confidently during the winter training period. The examiner forewarned Captain Kudryavtsev: "The platoon under the command of Lieutenant Koshlyak will be wearing gas masks during the firing exercise."

Strange as it may seem, but the firing practice leader failed to give the command "Gas" at the needed moment. The examiner returned the crews to the vehicles and reprimanded the company commander.

"But it is not standard practice to fire out of APCs at night while wearing gas masks," Captain Kudryavtsev tried to explain his position. He was hotly supported by the senior officer of the district's combat training and VUZ

director and the formation's chief of staff, who were present at the command post. The crews were already firing, and the training organizers were still leafing through the Fire Training Manual, attempting to find an article that would prove themselves correct. They were unable to find it.

After the shooting at the firing range died down, lonely zeros appeared on the feedback panel. The other gunner-operators were unable to improve the situation either. Privates D. Zhorabekov, B. Saidov and S. Tulin were poor at orienting themselves on the battlefield, they were too slow in their target search, and they made mistakes in determining range to target. It was clear that they had not trained enough with night sights. One indicative detail was that none of the shooters was able to hit the full figures with machinegun fire in the first run. It was evident that an unsatisfactory score was going to be accrued. It was at this time that the company pulled a fast one, compromising with its conscience: They decided to give the gunners more tracer rounds than authorized. The examiner cut short this, speaking mildly, of arbitrariness. As a result the company returned to the barracks with an unsatisfactory grade.

One would think that back at the barracks, where things were a little calmer, the officers should have revealed the true causes of their failure, and they should have thought seriously about how to correct the shortcomings in summer fire training. But Captain Kudryavtsev and the staff officers of the battalion continued to write everything off as a problem with the electronics. Had the electronics been checked out beforehand, they argued, the firing practice would have come out differently.

Of course, the equipment of a firing range must operate faultlessly in a final examination, and in all other lessons as well. What hindered the motorized riflemen from insuring such faultlessness? A lack of time? But they had fully sufficient time to smooth out and roll the paths of the firing range to a tabletop polish. When the examiner ordered the men to "plow up" the paths before the firing practice, to make the terrain resemble a battlefield, the men became angry at him.

No, electronics was not the problem. Combat training was organized in the battalion in such a way that there could be no grounds for even dreaming of achieving a high result and fulfilling the socialist pledges. At the peak of the winter training season the district's military council turned attention to shortcomings in the training of the gunner-operators of some subunits. It was noted that the program of tank gunnery training was not being fulfilled in all companies, especially at night, that material support was poor and that the exercises were stereotypic. The results of the winter training period show that many of the subunits managed to upgrade lesson quality and catch up. But the changes never occurred in the motorized rifle battalion under discussion here. Simplification reigned in the training. The examiner demonstrated this quite persuasively by some arithmetic. It turned out that the number of night tank gunnery exercises in which the company under the command of Captain Kudryavtsev participated was equivalent to the number of exercises it should have conducted in just a single month. And more than that, judging from the combat training record books the officers and gunner-operators did not participate in firing practices at all in February and March.

How could the motorized riflemen hope for a successful final firing exam? Prior to the examination itself, just two weeks before it was to begin, they closed down their local firing range. The battalion traveled to a firing range in another garrison to work on its exercises. The officers asserted that it was easier to practice there: The targets could be seen better at night. I have no intention of going into whether or not that is true. But as far as night firing in gas masks is concerned, no thought was given to it at all. Protective resources were simply not taken into the field at night.

To conclusively prove that electronics is absolutely blameless in this regard, let me describe the firing practices of other companies in the battalion.

Senior Lieutenant A. Semikov's subordinates performed their exercises during the day, in what we might call ideal conditions. But even their results were far from what they promised in their pledges. The gunner-operators were not at their peak. The machinegunners left the firing range in anger: They received only satisfactory scores.

To find the reasons behind the failure in the final firing examination I once again visited the firing range where the battalion's administrative officers were being tested in their fire skills. I found out many things here. Senior Lieutenant Yu. Aleksandrov and Lieutenant S. Slovik received low scores. Battalion chief of staff Major A. Gedz' argued that he should have received a higher score: I did hit one of the targets, he argued. And he was amazed when the examiner showed him a document in which it stated in black and white that one hit target is not enough for a satisfactory grade. Consider this in light of the fact that the battalion chief of staff is obligated to know this document by heart, and require that every person in the subunit be aware of it. Otherwise how can you teach people what to aim for in competition concerned with tasks and standards?

A tin panel with the following inscription caught my eye as I left the firing range: "You'll never make it if you don't practice." Simple and true, I thought. It is a pity that this inscription has faded away for the battalion's officers. Before summer, this panel must be restored to its proper place, and the training process must be organized, the effectiveness of competition must be raised, and competition must be filled with concrete content in a new way, in the way required by the combat training program.

11004

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

REPRINTS ON ALCOHOLISM, PLASTICS, HELICOPTER USE

Moscow KRY'LYA RODINY in Russian No 3, Mar 84 (signed to press 14 Feb 84)
p 34

[Reprinted articles under the heading "Overview," by military aviator S. Ignat'yev]

[Text] Aviation and Alcohol Are Incompatible

From ancient times people have been struggling with a most terrible human vice--drunkenness and alcoholism. This scourge is especially terrible for men devoting themselves to service in aviation.

The harmful affect of alcohol on a person's organism is well known--on the whole, and in particular on his central nervous system and liver, which is called figurately the "target organ" for alcohol. The majority of experts consider alcohol a liver poison.

Alcohol has a simple chemical structure, is completely soluble in water, and contains a relatively large amount of hydrogen ions in its molecules. This facilitates its rapid and unimpeded penetration of the body cells. Having entered an organism, alcohol undergoes a number of chemical transformations. Substances formed during this lead to steatosis of the liver and cause destruction of the liver cells and other abnormal symptoms dangerous to life.

Young people, teenagers, and women are especially subject to the rapid and destructive action of alcohol. Alcoholism develops in them more quickly, and strikes the liver harder.

Alcohol affection of the liver depends on how long the process is neglected and if the intake of alcohol continues. If yes, then it unquestionably will lead to its destruction. At first there is steatosis of the liver, then severe alcohol hepatitis, and further, cirrhosis of the liver and primary liver cancer. But if the patient finds the power in himself to abstain from alcohol in the future, then (with the exception of neglected cirrhosis and cancer) the disease may proceed in an alleviated form, as if "paralyzed."

The opinion prevails that taking a small dose of alcohol in the form of light wines is not harmful. On the basis of contemporary scientific data, experts come to the conclusion that there is no minimal "safe" level of alcohol consumption. Even its most miserly doses, consumed regularly, lead to the development of chronic alcoholism.

For people imprudent enough to have been attracted to drinking alcohol, discontinuing its use brings happiness and deliverance from many serious ailments. But one should not put off this matter; tomorrow may already be too late. The experts do not advise making some kind of compromise--refraining from alcohol only partially or for some period of time. One must cease this harmful habit immediately, completely, and forever!

Using alcohol is doubly intolerable for people who have decided to devote themselves to aviation. Flying and alcohol are incompatible. A pilot's visual and hearing acuity are decreased and his quickness of reaction is diminished by taking alcoholic drinks. Safety of the flight and fulfillment of the task are threatened. This questionable pleasure may cost the pilot very dearly!

NAUKA I TEKHNIKA

Ya. Filler, junior scientific associate

Plastic Is a Remarkable Material

Plastics created from polymer compounds are used widely in aviation equipment. In aircraft construction, rudders, ailerons, flaps, flooring, various partitions, radar domes, etc. are made of plastic. Plastic is necessary also for insulating wire and making various radio components.

A new type of plastic has been created--polyphenyl epoxide with dielectric properties, not depending on temperature and strength of current. Foam plastics are being employed successfully as a filler in the manufacture of flooring, doors, partitions, and plates for protecting the cabin from engine noise. Foam plastic of the porolon type, possessing elasticity, is used for making soft aircraft seats and elements of decorative cabin trim.

They call fluoroplastic one of the most remarkable synthetic materials. It is not influenced by alkalis or oxides, even those such as nitric acid and tsar's vodka (aqua regia), and it retains its qualities under temperatures from -195° to +250°C.

Having employed a special manufacturing method using the trend of fiber filler, experts have developed plastics which have tensile strength equal to the durability of high-quality steel. Work is being conducted for developing new kinds of plastic. Polymers have been synthesized already which will withstand temperatures up to 1000-1200°C.

Plates, sheets, and tubes used in the construction of aircraft are manufactured by means of pressing and shaping castings under pressure. This significantly facilitates the cycle, reduces labor intensiveness, and produces large savings.

AVIATSIA I KOSMONAVTIKA
Ye. Ivanov, docent

Border Guards in a Helicopter

The MI-8 was in the air. The crew noticed a barely discernible track in the snow. In a few minutes an intruder was detected. The helicopter commander, Captain V. Koval' made the decision to detain. But the intruder attempted to hide. They lowered the craft. The powerful stream of air produced by the main rotor threw the intruder off his feet. While he was collecting himself, the border guard detail succeeded in jumping from the helicopter and quickly rendering him harmless.

The idea of creating border guard aviation was born in 1923. At the initiative of F. E. Dzerzhinskiy, several airplanes were assigned to the border guards. Forty students of the Higher Border Guards School then underwent flight training and became pilots. This was only the first experience.

Aviation of border guards forces commenced its biography in 1933. In the 1930's border guards pilots participated in the struggle with the basmachi and violators of the State border. They acted fearlessly in the difficult conditions of the Far East and controlled the nearly inaccessible regions of the border and the sea coast. They helped the local inhabitants in cases of natural disasters. In 1934 border guards pilots took an active part in rescuing the Chelyuskins. The border guards pilots displayed heroism and bravery in the years of the Great Patriotic War.

The present generation of border guards aviators are increasing military traditions and are steadfastly and vigilantly standing watch on the borders. Not in the sands of the desert, not in the waves of the sea, not on the steppes, not in the forest--nowhere can an intruder hide from their alert eyes.

POGRANICHNIK
N. Rokhlov, honored USSR military pilot

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NAVAL FORCES

REAR ADM OLEYNIK ON NEED FOR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TASKS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Rear Adm A. Oleynik: "The Commander and Modern Combat: Study and Adopt"]

[Text] The air cushion landing ships approached the "enemy"-occupied shore under cover of night. Ahead there was not a flicker of light or a single sign of the defenders' presence. Only far off toward the horizon did the slender beam of a searchlight flare up from time to time and roam about, never reaching the shallow bay. According to intelligence, the "enemy" considered this sector of the coast impossible for landing an assault force and so he had taken no special precautionary measures here. The landing personnel were relying on this, and the landing took place swiftly and precisely without any complications.

The surprise which was achieved allowed the forward detachment to seize a large beachhead, but it was not easy to stay there. Realizing what had happened, the "enemy" immediately threw all his forces against the landing personnel. Counterattacks followed one after the other, and reserves were brought up quickly.

In this difficult situation it was especially important to land the assault force main body swiftly. Capt 3d Rank B. Makov, commander of the division of landing ships, suggested to the senior chief that they use a tactic which previously had been used rarely in assault landing practice.

It was not without hesitation that the senior chief approved the officer's suggestion. The fact is that a complicated maneuver, and especially one new to them, requires very precise control, otherwise its execution will be questionable.

In this situation the procedure for interaction of the assault forces had to be changed literally on the move. The fire support plan required immediate corrections. Difficulties with the further support of the assault force main body became real.

Yes, all this is so, but on the other hand, indisputable advantages also could be seen in the proposed maneuver. In addition, the division commander reported that his variant had been worked out in advance with the ship commanders and backed up with necessary calculations. As the battle to land showed, the officer who headed the assault force had been able to prepare imaginatively for it and anticipate not only the possible development of events, but also the vigorous reaction to them.

It must be said that for those exercise directors who knew Capt 3d Rank Makov, his actions did not seem unexpected. A spirit of innovation is clearly manifested in everything done in this unit. The party organization's active position contributes to the development of such a spirit. A planned, systematic exploration of tactics and a detailed study of the entrusted equipment's capabilities contribute to a considerable growth in the subunit's combat readiness.

The division is known for foremost commanders and experienced specialists, although a majority of the officers here are young. Their development takes place vigorously, however, and it is unquestionably above all because from their first days of duty in the unit they are in a whirl of interesting, vigorous, full-fledged activities where the acquisition of necessary knowledge, skills and abilities has been placed on an imaginative basis. In this creative collective even passive people begin to show their best side. It is behind this that we see the revelation of new reserves for increasing combat readiness.

Unfortunately we sometimes encounter officers who simply are serving their prescribed time within a unit. Duty for them is boring and monotonous and doesn't bring proper gratification. Where does the listlessness originate? It is hard to believe that these officers arrived as such after completing schools. If we take a more careful look at the naval service of such an officer, it will turn out that somewhere, at some stage, senior officers were not able to discern his potential capabilities, they didn't help him emerge, or they simply "clipped his wings." For their part the young people do not always have enough determination: one hitch and they deviate from their bold plans and ideas. That is how the most attractive, romantic element, one could say, disappears from duty, and without this it becomes boring, monotonous work. What is the source of zeal here when boredom overcomes you, when days and weeks are monotonous, and when fulfillment of daily duties becomes almost a mechanical matter?

The fact is that military service is a truly lively matter requiring constant search. Let's take the socialist pledges which foremost military collectives make. Their fulfillment demands not only a total exertion of energy, but also imagination and the simplification of one's work. Competition is inconceivable without this.

No, an officer must not look on his subunit as a place where he can work "from and to," but as a unique research laboratory where everyone burns with the fire of imagination and where a search for new things goes on from day to day.

Great Patriotic War experience also is the experience of supreme imagination of Soviet soldiers for the sake of the future victory. Suffice it to recall how many new things were stated in tactics, in the employment of forces and weapons and in command and control, and how much resourcefulness and sharpness of soldiers and sailors was displayed.

Recently the commander of one of the ships proposed to employ where possible, in addition to the usual method, a more improved method for ship evolutions when landing an assault force. The desire to achieve greater safety of the ships in the zone of "enemy" fire was the basis for his concept. The commander thought out his proposal seriously and substantiated it, and the staff became interested in the possibility of testing the innovation in practice, but matters did not go beyond words. A hitch occurred because not all commanders took a proper interest in their comrade's suggestion. First of all there was added work to practice the tactic and secondly, the use even of a method thoroughly prepared and approved on the staff did not preclude the risk of receiving a lower grade than in traditional actions. One ship commander reasoned approximately as follows: the tested method is more certain to assure one's success, and the grade still will not be raised for initiative.

The incident forced a great deal of thought, and not so much about the qualities of individual commanders as about the need to create an atmosphere with an acute need for exploration in the daily training in base and at sea. Evidently some commanders have become accustomed to "standard" conditions for holding exercises where they believe that a method worked out long ago is the most reliable.

Then in the next exercise the senior chief created a tactical background in which traditional actions proved to be unproductive. Here is where everyone saw with their own eyes that they cannot mark time.

Staff officers captains 3d rank G. Savrasov and M. Yanayev arranged for an additional test of the proposed method and took a personal part in some of the work. Then everything was played out in action and subsequently the method was worked out in exercises. The result exceeded expectations. In time the more effective method for landing an assault force developed from an alternate into the primary method. Ship commanders who mastered it also began to make suggestions of initiative themselves. It must be noted that staff specialists also learned a lesson from what happened. They began to perform a more careful analysis of experience gained aboard ships in order not only to take notice of more up-to-date matters, but also to prompt shipboard officers to search constantly for such things.

It is very important for the staff not to work just on abstract searches and not preach from above how to think, but to include all ship commanders and their subordinates in comprehensive creativeness. Of course, initiative must be distinguished here from wilfulness, which has nothing in common with the interests of the matter. Ill-conceived actions by "hotheads" usually lie behind this. But commanders who are inquisitive and think seriously desire to avoid miscalculations. If not everything works out for them at once, however,

the initiative still must find support. It is difficult to instil boldness of thought and aspirations without thoughtful motivation.

Imagination in combat and imagination in combat training demand a sense of measure. We cannot scorn that which is known and strike out that already approved. The fact is that new things most often grow naturally from old things and are based on a thorough mastery of the latter. It is absolutely inadmissible when a certain commander scorns a study of arrangements for conducting combat recommended to him in a search for a more original solution and relies on "enlightenment." It is as if to say that the imaginative approach in itself denies the repetition of that which has been mastered. Yes, blind emulation and thoughtless copying of techniques known to all is a very unreliable path to success, but this does not at all mean that we must avoid studying experience. Often instead of wasting efforts in vain we should merely carefully deal with accumulated experience and make a confident step forward on its basis.

A report came to ship commander Capt-Lt V. Ponomarev in the immediate proximity of the assault landing site that far from all "enemy" weapon emplacements had been neutralized during fire preparation and execution of the assigned mission was complicated significantly. Then Ponomarev decided to use not only ship-board weapons, but also those of the assault force during the landing on the beach. In the war years landing personnel often entered combat from the deck even before the beginning of the landing. Capt-Lt Ponomarev did this in the way permitted by modern weapons and combat equipment, while another commander showed confusion in the very same situation. He didn't have enough resourcefulness because of underestimating frontline experience.

In the final account an underestimation of available capabilities, no matter what it concerns, turns out to be the fetters of search. Let's say that modern landing ships, particularly air cushion vessels, are capable of delivering major landing forces in compressed time periods to the most inaccessible areas, but some of the landing personnel get the opinion in this regard that the reserve of the combat equipment's design capabilities is so great that it remains only to use it according to instructions and success is assured in performing any mission. This really may appear to be the case when equipment is first being mastered, but even then it is important to determine the direction of search in advance, with a genuine perspective. The fact is that there is no limit in innovation, in uncovering reserves for operating improvements, or in bettering the norms.

For some time it was believed that the rates for loading combat equipment aboard landing ships had been taken to the maximum possible. Attempts to invent something here were unproductive. It was a dead end, as the saying goes. Nevertheless, staff specialists did not cease the search. The idea of decreasing the time of preparatory operations and improving mobility of the subunits of landing ships was so very tempting. Officer V. Kharnikov, who by that time had developed many interesting suggestions, took over a group of enthusiasts and the "impossible" was conquered. Combat readiness rose as a result, there was a considerable increase in the productivity of military labor and, no less important, there was an increase in confidence in one's abilities and in the idea that it was possible to set the boldest tasks for oneself: those tasks dictated by tomorrow, which demands the adoption of everything beneficial originating in the course of combat training.

NAVAL FORCES

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12462

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SPECIAL TROOPS

THREE HOT MEALS DAILY REQUIRED IN FIELD EXERCISES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 84 p 1

[Letter by Lt Col V. Il'chenko, Red Banner Far Eastern Military District, with comments by district deputy chief of rear services Major General B. Litvin: "After the March"]

[Text] Having completed a long march, a certain motorized rifle company reached its indicated area with the mission of occupying defenses at a designated line. Right away the regiment went to work, setting up company strongpoints and a system of obstacles.

It was hard for the soldiers. There was little time to set up the positions and, to put it mildly, the weather conditions were adverse: The wind was intense and penetrating. Nonetheless the personnel of the regiment completed their mission: All work was finished by the appointed time. And later on, repelling an "enemy" attack, the motorized riflemen demonstrated high fire proficiency and outstanding field skills.

But I wish to talk about something else--the way food services were organized for the soldiers. I reached the battalion commanded by Captain V. Shevnin right at lunch. In the field, of course, conveniences are not paramount. And the fact that the soldiers were eating right in the foxholes was no surprise. There was something else that amazed me: The motorized riflemen were issued dry rations for lunch. Why no hot food?

"The conditions were bad," the battalion commander said. "It was a long march, and as soon as we got to our area we had to start work on the obstacles."

Could it really be that there were no possibilities for preparing hot food? And what was it like in other subunits?

A battalion under the command of Major V. Sosnin was deployed on adjacent ground. I went there. And I saw a completely different picture. The battalion food preparation station was deployed in a little gulley. The cooks, privates A. Mamadzhayev and A. Sharimzhanov, were wielding their ladles adroitly, filling insulated bottles with borsch and doling out kasha. Warrant Officer Yu. Berezhin, the chief of the food services station, supervised the issue of bread and other foods.

Two battalion commanders, two different approaches to feeding the soldiers in the field. Both subunits were under identical conditions, performing the same mission. But Major Sosnin's subordinates were receiving hot food three times a day as stated in the regulations, while their neighbors had to make do with dry rations.

Lieutenant Colonel V. Il'chenko
Red Banner Far Eastern Military
District

At the request of our permanent correspondent for the Far Eastern Military District, Major General B. Litvin, the district's deputy chief of rear services, comments on these facts.

As a rule soldiers in the field should be given three meals a day under all circumstances. These requirements are observed in the overwhelming majority of the district's units and subunits. Take as an example the antiaircraft regiment in which Lieutenant Colonel A. Brodskiy is the deputy commander for rear services. I have often been present when this unit has undergone tactical exercises. Each time before leaving for the field the subunit commanders and the rear services specialists make careful preparations, thinking out the rear support to be provided to the personnel in all phases of the exercise. This is why cases where antiaircraft gunners have had to make do with dry rations have never occurred.

Unfortunately not all commanders have developed this attitude to feeding the personnel in the field. It was one such case that Lieutenant Colonel V. Il'chenko described. What can I say about this? Being the battalion commander, Captain V. Shevnin is directly responsible for providing hot food to his subordinates, and he must organize its preparation. But he did not do this, he did not display concern for his subordinates, losing an opportunity to check the combat readiness of his rear services specialists.

We know from the experience of the Great Patriotic War that concern for the diet of the soldiers was felt to be an important duty by frontal commanders. It was not easy to provide hot food to the soldiers during the fighting. Rear services specialists often had to prepare it under enemy fire. But I cannot recollect a single day when we were not given hot food.

Commanders of all ranks have more than enough cares during tactical exercises. But organization of food services for the personnel must always doubtlessly be in the center of their attention.

11004
CSO: 1801/309

INADEQUACIES EVIDENT IN MILITARY-EDUCATIONAL WORK

KaSSR DOSAAF Plenum

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 18 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by V. Vlasov: "From DOSAAF Committee Plenums: Under the Badge of Criticism and Self-Criticism: Alma-Ata"]

[Text] According to results of its work the Kazakhstan republic DOSAAF organization considerably lowered its indicators in the All-Union Socialist Competition in 1983 in comparison with 1982.

The discussion at the regular plenum of the KaSSR DOSAAF CC was about how to return the lost positions and elevate the level of mass defense work. The report by republic DOSAAF Central Committee Chairman B. Baytasov and speeches by plenum participants placed great emphasis on indoctrinational work with cadres and on elevating their sense of responsibility for the assigned job.

DOSA AF organizations of Karaganda, Taldy-Kurgan and Kokchetav oblasts, which took prize places in socialist competition, achieved high indicators primarily thanks to efficiency in the committees' work.

At the same time, the plenum emphasized that it is not yet everywhere in the republic that there is assurance of the indivisible unity of military-patriotic indoctrination of DOSAAF members with their training in fundamentals of military affairs. For example, in the DOSAAF primary organization of Karaganda State University, which brings together more than 5,000 persons, only a little more than 100 work in technical circles and sections. Approximately the very same situation exists in universities of Alma-Ata and other cities of the republic.

Many oblast committees have replaced lively organizational work to a considerable extent with paper-pushing. The agendas of presidiums and buros are overloaded. This reduces the quality of their discussion and fulfillment of resolutions which are made. For example, the Tselinograd Obkom discusses 12-15 issues at a single breath, as the saying goes.

Attention also was directed to the fact that many public entities of the oblast committees have lowered the level of their work. For example, DOSAAF

clubs operating on a voluntary basis have ceased to function under the Alma-Ata and Karaganda obkoms.

The Kazakhstan DOSAAF Central Committee Plenum adopted a resolution directed toward further improvement of mass defense work in the republic.

Lt Gen V. V. Mosyaykin, deputy chairman of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee, spoke at the plenum.

Moldavian DOSAAF Plenum

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 18 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by I. Lisnik: "From DOSAAF Committee Plenums: Under the Badge of Criticism and Self-Criticism: Kishinev"]

[Text] A plenum of the Moldavian DOSAAF Central Committee was held here. Its participants discussed the republic organization's tasks for further improvement of mass defense work in light of demands of the February 1984 CPSU Central Committee Plenum and resolutions of the 3d USSR DOSAAF Central Committee Plenum.

As noted by the briefer, MoSSR DOSAAF Central Committee Chairman V. Shmarov, problems of organizing socialist competition and fulfilling planning quotas were resolved somewhat better than in previous years; nevertheless, many unresolved problems remain. The primary one is an improvement in the work style and methods of DOSAAF committees in directing the primary organizations and forming technical circles and sports sections. Some committees lacked exactingness and consistency in organizing military-patriotic indoctrination.

The briefer and speakers mentioned the insufficient attention shown to war and Armed Forces veterans by DOSAAF committees and that their experience and knowledge is poorly used in the work of patriotic indoctrination of the youth. The work with cadres and the selection, training and indoctrination of those coming to work in DOSAAF organizations require serious improvement.

Those speaking during the discussion period made interesting suggestions aimed at a further improvement in the work style and methods of republic DOSAAF organizations.

Khabarovsk Kray DOSAAF Plenum

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 18 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by V. Mironov: "From DOSAAF Committee Plenums: Under the Badge of Criticism and Self-Criticism: Khabarovsk"]

[Text] A plenum of the Khabarovsk Kray DOSAAF Committee was held. Both the briefer, kraykom chairman L. Tsukerman, and the speakers placed primary emphasis on a search for reserves to improve the quality of military-patriotic

indoctrination of the youth, and of mass defense and sports work. The Khabarovsk DOSAAF members have things to ponder. For long years they were among the three best defense collectives in the Far East, but they took a backward step based on results of last year's socialist competition.

Those DOSAAF gorkom and raykom leaders who are slow to build up the training and sports facility and who are using the existing facilities poorly were subjected to serious criticism. There are gaps in the military-patriotic indoctrination of the youth, especially predraft-age youth.

Mass defense and sports work, especially in remote and rural rayons, still lag behind the demands of the time. The quality of specialist training for the Armed Forces and national economy in certain rayons was criticized seriously. Both the briefing and the speeches cited examples and facts where workers of training and sports organizations regard their duties irresponsibly. The plenum placed special emphasis on an analysis and dissemination of foremost experience, on its publicity, and on the possibility of applying it everywhere in the kray.

Electrical Machinebuilding Plant

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 18 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by SOVETSKIY PATRIOT correspondent M. Nemirova, city of Yerevan: "Hidden Reserves"]

[Text] "Mirzoyan," said the stocky man of medium height in blue coveralls, introducing himself and extending a firm, muscular hand.

I recognized him immediately from a photograph in the Glory Path. He was a fitter of the highest category, a delegate to the 26th CPSU Congress and the 27th Armenian Communist Party Congress, wearer of the orders of Lenin and "Emblem of Honor," one of the most experienced mentors at the Order of Labor Red Banner Armelektrozavod Electrical Machinebuilding Plant imeni V. I. Lenin. He brought up 400 young lads in his 30 years at the plant and took them into his heart forever.

"It isn't such an involved matter to teach a young lad a fitter's job and make him an average specialist," says Artsrun Markarovich. "But it is not at all simple to bring up a person, a citizen. One has to put his heart into it and develop a sense of duty and responsibility in the lads. When the time comes to go into the Army I arrange a send-off for my lads at this bench here during a break. I give them my instructions."

Yes, Mirzoyan's pupils fulfill their mentor's instructions with honor. They often write him, give accounts of their Army work and ask advice. After serving their time they return to their native plant.

"Here they are, my eagles," says Mirzoyan, proudly pointing to three young workers, "Yeranos Shamoyan, Seyran Arutyunyan and Manvel Davtyan. After

serving their time in the Army they returned to the shop late last year. Recently a letter came from Yervand Grigoryan. He writes: I'll return home in May and right away to my own collective."

There are many young people at the Armelektrozavod. Each year tens of draftees leave here to serve in the Army and Navy and that is why special attention is shown for the predraft-age and draft-age youth.

Notice should be taken of the indoctrinational work performed with the working shift by war and labor veterans. The lectures, talks, and scheduled and unscheduled meetings with people grown wise through abundant combat and labor experience leave an ineradicable trace in the young people's hearts and prompt them to work better, place major demands on themselves, and comprehensively prepare for military service. Not a single major military-patriotic activity goes by at the plant without the participation of war veterans shop chief Hero of Socialist Labor R. Movsesyan, fitter N. Mkhitaryan (a full wearer of the Order of Labor Glory), Col (Ret) S. Mkrtychyan, I. Stepanyan (a full wearer of the Order of Glory), and Order of Lenin wearers N. Khlgatyan and L. Gambaryan. Moreover, each of them is a mentor who performs individual indoctrinational work with his pupils. This good tradition--to keep the working shift of future defenders of the Motherland under paternal care--has found a solid home with the Armenian electrical machinebuilders.

There is no question that tutorship--an important component of indoctrinational work with the youth--is well arranged, but one cannot be limited to this alone and forget about other work forms.

Attention is drawn in one of the plant's shops to a small sign: "Komsomol-Youth Brigade imeni HSU Dzhan Karakhanyan Works Here." The hero's name is on the brigade of Armenian Leninist Komsomol Prize laureate Smbat Smbatyan, a member of the republic Komsomol Central Committee buro.

"Before the war Komsomol member D. Karakhanyan worked in this shop; he volunteered for the front from here and died in '44," says A. Yegiazaryan, chairman of the DOSAAF primary organization committee. "Karakhanyan is listed on this brigade's rolls and a portion of his earnings is transferred to the Soviet Peace Fund."

"Why isn't his portrait on the Glory Path? Or on the war veterans display?"

K. Aleksanyan, secretary of the plant Komsomol committee, answered this question:

"Karakhanyan's portrait... Of course it should be on the Glory Path. We plan on setting up a bust of the hero on plant grounds for the 40th anniversary of the victory. We already have come to an agreement with the architect..."

Well, 40 years is a very sufficient time to commemorate the name of the only plant worker among prominent plant personnel who is a Hero of the Soviet Union if only with a photograph on the Glory Path. But today I went around almost

all shops and didn't find a portrait of Karakhanyan anywhere. I thought I probably would see it in the plant combat and labor glory museum, but... The largest plant in the republic had neither a museum nor a room nor even a corner of that sort!

The plant has neither a lecture bureau nor a future soldier's university. Tours are not arranged to city-heroes and other historical places of our Motherland, if we do not count the only trip long ago by 15 Komsomol members to Brest. Trade union committee chairman O. Paronikyan gave us an assurance in talking with us that the union committee always was ready to finance such military-patriotic measures, but neither the Komsomol nor DOSAAF show any initiative.

The process of the future soldier's ideological and moral development cannot be separated from giving young lads training in the ABC's of military affairs and physical conditioning. Everyone agrees with this, but in practice they at times lose sight of the need for a comprehensive approach to the military-patriotic indoctrination of young people.

A training point has existed at the plant for many years. Unfortunately, several months ago the administration moved it out of the room outfitted in conformity with the demands of the basic military training program into a basement completely unsuitable for classes.

Many sports sections function at the Armelektrozavod: shooting, radio, motorcycle, cart-racing, motor vehicle, motorboat, applied military games, and underwater orienteering. Last year 60 persons fulfilled norms of the first and second categories, 270 did so for the third category and more than 4,000 persons passed the GTO [Ready for Labor and Defense] norms in shooting. Intra-plant competitions are held regularly under the DOSAAF committee plan. Plant all-star teams participate in rayon, city and republic competitions. Today more than 150 persons work in DOSAAF STK [technical sports club] sections, but considerably more could do so if only...

"If only we had a full-fledged sports training facility and the DOSAAF STK and committee, which function with the authority of a raykom, were fully staffed. But today one chairman with the help of a few activists 'pulls along' all mass defense work at the plant himself and, as experience has shown, this is quite insufficient for a major defense collective," says A. Sarkisyan, deputy chairman of the DOSAAF committee. "What can be said about our facility? Four of the six motorcycles in the STK and five of the twelve carts, which have become completely unusable, are to be written off. We use the plant's capabilities for repairing equipment, but even that which we succeed in restoring soon again becomes useless since all our equipment is stored in a damp basement. The STK doesn't have a room or the necessary sports equipment, and it lacks trainers."

We spoke about the situation in the plant STK with party committee secretary R. Akopyan and union committee chairman O. Paronikyan. Both leaders assured us that the club would be given specific assistance, both organizational and

financial. But we concluded that to this day no one, including Arkadiy Sarkisyan, has really raised these questions before the plant leadership, and they should have.

I left the plant when it already was dark, with a certain dual feeling: a feeling of pride for the collective's labor successes and gratitude toward the veterans, and a feeling of disappointment that the collective's enormous opportunities for indoctrinating the youth were not being fully used and numerous reserves were hidden. The fact is that there might not be substantial deficiencies in the work of the defense collective of Armelektrozavod, the flagship of Armenian industry, with a more principled and imaginative approach to matters by the Defense Society primary organization committee and with specific assistance and precise leadership on the part of Yerevan's Leninskiy Raykom of DOSAAF.

6904

CSO: 1801/302

DOSAAF

ORGANIZATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS NOTED

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 18, 25 Apr 84

[Article by V. Sysoyev: "To Whom Should the Job be Entrusted?"]

[18 Apr 84 p 2]

[Text] 1. Time-Tested

The greeting of the CPSU Central Committee to the 9th All-Union DOSAAF Congress gave a high estimation of the work by the Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces. Its organizations now operate in practically all labor collectives and educational institutions. The Defense Society's contribution to the military-patriotic indoctrination of workers and basic military training of the youth is being augmented. It puts in great effort to preparing specialists for the USSR Armed Forces. A perceptible advance was made in development of technical and applied military sports and there has been a more perceptible participation of DOSAAF organizations in teaching Soviet citizens various technical specialties needed by the national economy. These organizations also are doing what they can to carry out the Food Program.

DOSAAF organizations are obligated above all to the steady growth in our country's economy and culture and to the constant attention shown their work by party and soviet entities for all their achievements. An important role unquestionably also is played here by an improvement in work with cadres.

Guided by resolutions of party congresses and CPSU Central Committee plenums and by demands of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers Decree dated 7 May 1966 entitled "The Status of and Measures for Improving the Work of the Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces (USSR DOSAAF)," DOSAAF committees have improved work with cadres. These matters are brought up for discussion of presidiums, plenums, conferences and seminars. The approach to selecting candidates for particular positions has become more thoughtful.

A system for retraining cadres basically has formed in the Society and continues to improve. Central and zonal courses where many workers undergo

retraining have been operating for more than a single year now. A considerable number of the organizations regularly hold classes for the professional and Marxist-Leninist training of workers of various categories, and exactingness toward them is growing.

As a result of all this, a majority of sectors of mass defense work are headed by people who have been prepared ideologically and professionally. The qualitative make-up of cadres in decisive directions of the Society's work has improved noticeably, the party layer has grown and there are more people with a higher education over the last five years. The stability of raykom and gor-kom chairmen and of school administrators and instructors has increased in a number of places and positive improvements have occurred in the staffing of DOSAAF committees.

Committees and training, sports and production organizations in which stable, efficient collectives have formed are no rarity now. For example, approximately every tenth T/O&E worker in the Brest Model Joint Technical School has a higher education and three-fourths have a secondary or special technical education. A majority of them have worked in the school for many years. The staff of the Moscow DOSAAF City Committee is distinguished by high working capacity and efficiency. It copes successfully not only with leadership of a capital organization with many millions of members, but also with assignments of the Society Central Committee for supporting many all-union and international activities.

But it would be incorrect not to see, behind what has been achieved, the substantial shortcomings and new problems which have arisen. The increased tasks and scope of mass defense work are placing higher demands on the cadres of DOSAAF organizations. As indicated by the party, in order to advance successfully there must be people who are politically mature, competent, with initiative, with organizing abilities and with a feeling for new things in all sectors. In his speech at the April 1984 Party Central Committee Plenum, CPSU CC General Secretary, Comrade K. U. Chernenko emphasized the importance of the present cadre policy and remarked that a precise, well-conceived system is important in working with cadres as nowhere else.

Of course it is necessary above all to strictly implement Leninist principles of cadre selection according to their political, job and moral qualities. Unfortunately in practice we often have occasion to encounter facts of a different sort. There still are organizations where some responsible positions are held by people who compromised themselves in a previous location and who entrust physical assets to people previously convicted for misappropriation of socialist property. Instances of unfortunate and at times erroneous appointments usually occur where the leaders do not burden themselves in delving thoroughly into the job and moral qualities of candidates planned for particular posts, and where questions of cadre assignment and transfer are decided without the participation of party and trade union organizations.

It is poor when a candidate's deficiencies or vices are not identified during his selection and they show up only later. But it is completely inadmissible

to place in a position a person whose unsuitability is fully clear. At one time WO [Praporshchik] (Res) Naumov was appointed instructor at the Brest Model Radiotechnical School. School heads and the party organization knew that he had been released from the Armed Forces for abuse of alcoholic beverages and had two party punishments, but this placed no one on guard and Naumov was entrusted with training draftees. As was to be expected, the new instructor proved to be unsuited for the role of indoctrinator. He often would come to classes in his cups and twice was picked up drunk on the street. Finally the collective was forced to part with him.

It is quite understandable that there must be no place in the organizations' life for such facts.

Along with other reasons, unscrupulousness and haste in selecting cadres leads to their greater turnover. The turnover of masters of production training and instructors of raykoms, gorkoms and sports clubs (i.e., the basic element of practical workers) continues to be especially high. Each year in Moscow Oblast, for example, a third of the masters of production training changes on the average, and even more in some schools. Over a three-year period nine out of ten of DOSAAF raykom chairmen were replaced in the Minsk city organization.

Work experience of the best collectives persuades us that the instability of cadres can be reduced to a minimum. This is achieved by their proper placement depending on capabilities, by the ability to interest them in specific work, and by constant concern for improving working conditions and the establishment of a healthy microclimate in the collectives. But this experience is not supported everywhere. Some schools play around with the workers: they give some of them an opportunity to earn more, in part because of vacancies in a number of positions. But first of all such a practice contradicts labor legislation and, secondly, it harms the quality of specialist training. An instructor or master who is busy 10-12 hours daily will not be able to give the cadets detailed knowledge and instill firm practical skills in them no matter how capable he may be.

Problems of cadre selection and placement are resolved more reliably and easily where they work seriously with a reserve of people for advancement. The presence of a strong reserve permits assuring a timely, full-fledged replacement and the necessary continuity. The Yegoryevsk Air Club and a number of organizations of Rostov and Omsk oblasts take a thoughtful attitude toward cultivating a reserve.

Maj Gen (Ret) V. Savin, former chairman of the BSSR DOSAAF CC, deserves high praise for having managed to prepare a worthy successor. P. Maksimov, who replaced him, at one time received experience under Vitaliy Nikolayevich's aegis in administrative work in DOSAAF by steps, as the saying goes. He now confidently heads up the republic organization. Many places unfortunately do not give proper attention to a reserve and so in cases where someone has to be replaced, such as a school chief or committee chairman, there often is not an appropriate candidate. But the fact is that those same training organizations have more than one deputy chief, and even in the committees the presidium

composition is rather broad. It is poor when circumstances force a worker to be chosen from outside, and at times force a resort to co-opting in violation of democratic principles.

Based on the level of education and political conditioning, the present composition of DOSAAF cadres allows having a firm reserve in all organizations and in all directions of Society work. But what is necessary are not formal lists of candidates for advancement, but persistent work with specific people. The attitude also has to be changed toward the deputy level, this fundamental accumulator of a reserve. It is obvious that in staffing elective entities we also have to recommend for their membership comrades who would be capable of taking charge of the organization if necessary.

Reserve officers, who must continue to be the backbone of the Defense Society cadres, are the primary source for adding to workers of committees and training organizations. At the same time the interests of the matter demand a bolder advancement of Komsomol activists, NCO's and petty officers released to the reserve from the Armed Forces. They have better knowledge of the sentiments and needs of young people who make up a large part of the DOSAAF membership. The broader inclusion of women in heading up committees, schools and clubs of the Society fully justifies itself and considerably helps eliven mass defense work among girls.

Training people and improving their professional knowledge and job qualifications holds an important place in the implementation of a personnel policy. Many committees noticeably stepped up attention to this aspect of the matter of late. For example, much that is instructive accumulated in Belorussia, where there are regular seminars, courses, and practical science conferences. A considerable number of the activities are conducted in the facilities of foremost organizations. The republic DOSAAF club plays a prominent role and in particular it does much of benefit in generalizing foremost experience.

For the sake of justice, however, it must be admitted that the work of improving the qualifications of cadres demands further improvement. Many problems, omissions and disruptions in the work of DOSAAF organizations often turn on the poor preparation of some workers. It would appear advisable to pay more attention in all forms of training, including at courses, to a study of guidance documents as applied to the functional duties of trainees as well as to the practice of working with people and to the ability to arrange and maintain businesslike contacts with state and public organizations so that DOSAAF cadres gain a deeper understanding of the specific nature of the Defense Society and such features as the collective nature of its leadership and reliance on the public.

The greatest bottleneck remains the training of cadres during practical work, local instruction, and the arrangement of a check of execution. In many instances supervision lacks a systematic nature, purpose and depth. The heads of certain rayon and oblast committees rarely make local visits and their trips usually are short and ineffective. What kind of serious training can it be if the DOSAAF obkom tries to take in 20 organizations or more in an inspection in 5-6 days? In such a short time it naturally is impossible to delve

thoroughly into matters, help remedy the deficiencies which are uncovered, and share experience. The inspectors also cannot come up with an objective opinion about local workers, their training level and their moral make-up. Lively contact with people often is replaced by lively correspondence. The ever growing flow of paper erects a sturdy wall between supervisors and subordinates and takes away more and more useful time from both.

Mastery of foremost experience is an important means for teaching cadres practical work. Many different activities to generalize and disseminate the work forms and methods of the best collectives are conducted in the center and locally. Nevertheless, the experience still is being poorly adopted in many organizations. Determined and persistent organizational work is necessary in order for new ideas to take root.

[25 Apr 84 p 2]

[Text] 2. Links of the Same Chain

Indoctrination work with cadres demands serious improvement. Resolutions of the June 1983 and February 1984 CPSU Central Committee plenums make this mandatory. The party points out that ideological and political indoctrination work is being advanced to the fore more and more in our days. A struggle is going on for the minds and hearts of millions of people on the planet. Party, state and public organizations in our country are joining in this struggle more and more actively and persistently. Cadres of the Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces are called upon to play a certain role in this struggle. The higher their ideological conditioning and moral staunchness, the more substantial the Society's contribution will be to the cause of military-patriotic indoctrination of Soviet citizens and to a further strengthening of national defense as a whole.

Numerous facts indicate that the majority of workers of committees, training and sports organizations, and production enterprises are genuinely concerned with their ideological growth, take an interest in political training, correctly understand party policy and desire to implement it in their assigned sectors. A significant number of managers regularly appear in labor collectives and before students and pupils to tell them about the Defense Society's work and to explain Lenin's behests about defense of the socialist homeland and the party's policy directed toward assuring the security of the Soviet state and our allies and toward preserving peace on earth.

Meanwhile indoctrination work in a number of organizations suffers from substantial flaws and imperfections. Not all fellow workers are included in political training. Ideological and political indoctrination work often is carried out without a close link with life and with missions being accomplished, and so it has an insufficiently effective influence on the personnel's ideological growth and their development of high political and moral qualities. Herein lies one of the reasons why some DOSAAF workers do not work all out, they work without initiative and they behave improperly. There still are frequent instances where labor discipline is violated. The laxity of some

persons and an absence of order in establishments and organizations sometimes give rise to serious incidents.

One also cannot help but be disturbed by the fact that there are violations of the USSR Law on Universal Military Obligation in a number of training organizations. The preparation of specialists for the Armed Forces from among the urban youth often is conducted with a separation from production. This is done under the specious pretext of preparing the young lads better for military service. As a matter of fact, some workers try to get around difficulties and make life easier for themselves. The quality of specialist training should be improved not through a violation of existing procedures but by an improvement in organization of the training process. But this is not yet the concern everywhere. For example, a number of motor vehicle schools are not fulfilling the exercises of driving vehicles under difficult traffic conditions to the full extent. Classes during hours of darkness are replaced by daytime classes. Other conditionalities also are allowed, which in the final account have a negative effect on the cadets' practical schooling.

Those who love so-called inflated figures and who love to pass off what is desired for reality also have not disappeared in DOSAAF organizations. Taking advantage of weak supervision, the most shameless of them commit out-and-out forgeries. Instances of forged invoices for material and commodity assets and the submission of forged accounts have been uncovered in particular in a number of subunits of the Moscow Oblast organization. The obkom chairman himself, G. Konobeyev, also practiced [false] additions. The USSR DOSAAF CC Presidium Buro severely condemned such a practice and strictly punished specific culprits. The Society's oblast committee plenum relieved Comrade Konobeyev of the chairman duties.

Of course the disorders in the work of the Moscow Obkom of DOSAAF should have been stopped considerably earlier. Many signals came in about them, but no significance was attached to this. This also is encountered in other places. Proper exactingness is not yet always promptly placed on Society workers for strictness in observing the discipline of execution and no fundamental assessment is given of instances of mismanagement, [false] additions, and abuses of official position. It is not everywhere that there is a skillful combination of concern for cadres and trust in them with a strict demand for fulfillment of their official duties. An attentive attitude toward people at times develops into liberalism and all-forgivingness. Not all administrative entities and appointed persons make proper use of the rights granted them to encourage and punish subordinates. There are frequent instances where people are punished in the heat of the moment, as the saying goes, groundlessly. At times the incentives too are handed out right and left. For example, the Moscow Obkom of DOSAAF presented monetary bonuses to workers who had administrative and party punishments for omissions in service and who had committed infractions.

The party points out that efforts of indoctrination work must be directed toward developing stable, high job and moral qualities in managers. All means must be used to increase the responsibility of cadres for the assigned job and

for the end results of work. They must be helped to master effective work methods and to overcome inertia and adherence to old ways. There is also great significance in instilling a sense of reality and the ability not to lose touch with the urgent needs of life.

All this concerns DOSAAF cadres directly. At the present time some of them, for example, do not have a sense of reality, they avoid solving day-to-day problems and they expend their energy and the work of their subordinates on developing those matters which cannot have a practical solution now.

It is very important to learn to distinguish precisely the objectively caused difficulties from deficiencies generated by subjective reasons. As the CPSU Central Committee points out, we first of all have to put everything we have in order and on this basis achieve the best results. Under DOSAAF conditions the acuteness of this is predetermined by a large number of instances of mismanagement. If we have a look at the conditions under which a number of organizations store costly training and sports equipment, how effectively it is being used, how buildings and structures are being operated and what the losses are from misappropriation and embezzlement it will become clear how much still has to be done to put all the Society's facilities in proper order. A proprietary approach toward everything everywhere, a thrifty attitude toward state and public property, and economy in things large and small represent an inalienable trait of today's worker.

Successes in indoctrinating people are inconceivable without an intensification of the uncompromising struggle against deficiencies and against the specific carriers of particular violations. Resolutions of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum emphasize that socialist awareness and the civic qualities of the socialist toiler and his need for conscientious labor for the common good are formed in a struggle for fulfilling plans, for strengthening discipline and efficiency, and against inertness, bureaucratism and formalism.

A substantial change is needed in the organization of socialist competition, which has to be reoriented toward quality indicators and freed more decisively from quantitative criteria. The fact is that it is not the number of activities which is of importance for the work, but practical results of the labor, and the work of administrative entities and appointed persons of all ranks must be evaluated not by words, but by specific actions.

Concern for people and attention to their needs, to working and living conditions and to preservation of health is a component part of work with cadres. No small role here is played by the moral aspect in addition to the timely and complete resolution of material issues. The heads of committees, schools, clubs and enterprises of DOSAAF must be closer to subordinates, know their personal qualities and mental make-up better, support their initiative promptly, help them in everyday affairs and if necessary correct them.

The April 1984 CPSU Central Committee Plenum emphasized with new vigor that our successes in all areas of economic and cultural development depend to a decisive extent on the status of work with cadres. To advance we have to

constantly improve the job of selecting, training and indoctrinating cadres. It stands to reason that in order to achieve new, higher goals in mass defense work the heads of DOSAAF committees, schools, clubs and enterprises must take up cadre issues more specifically and take a more thoughtful approach to the selection, training and indoctrination of their fellow workers.

Experience shows that cadre affairs are most satisfactory in those collectives where work with people is under the constant scrutiny of the administration and party organizations, where there is a periodic analysis of the qualitative make-up of fellow workers and effective steps are promptly taken to improve it, and where there is no shirking on time or effort for training and indoctrinating cadres. It would seem that a periodic performance appraisal of certain categories of workers in DOSAAF committees, schools, and clubs might contribute to further strengthening of Society cadres. Statements made locally about renewing duty-production descriptors from time to time obviously also merit attention.

Publicity in working with cadres and including the public at large in resolving such issues has a positive effect on personnel work. Party organizations have a special place here. In recent years full-fledged, competent party organizations which play an increasingly important role in the life of collectives and in accomplishing the tasks placed on the Defense Society have formed in the majority of DOSAAF committees, schools, sports clubs and enterprises. It stands to reason that they also have an influence on implementation of personnel policy, but their capabilities still are being used far from completely. They can and must do considerably more by relying on the rights granted them by the CPSU Bylaws (one is the right to supervise the work of the staff in fulfilling party directives, another is to supervise the work of the administration).

The direction of such party organizations is the prerogative of appropriate local party entities, but higher DOSAAF committees also cannot remain aloof with regard to them. Those workers in DOSAAF central committees of union republics, kraykoms and obkoms proceed quite properly in visiting local areas when they meet with secretaries and the aktiv of party organizations, exchange opinions about the state of affairs with them, and orient them with respect to priority tasks.

After examining the Defense Society's tasks in light of resolutions of the December 1983 and February 1984 CPSU Central Committee plenums, the 3d USSR DOSAAF Central Committee Plenum also laid out specific ways to improve the work with cadres. Timely, complete implementation of its guidelines is a guarantee that DOSAAF collectives will respond with action to the party's growing demands on the Defense Society and will cope successfully with the tasks assigned them under conditions of the aggravated international situation.

DOSA AF

ORGANIZATIONS' FAILURE TO USE DOSAAF PUBLICATIONS NOTED

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 15 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by B. Korovin and I. Semiokhin: "Consulting with the Press"]

[Text] The means of mass information are of great importance in ideological work and in military-patriotic and international indoctrination of the workers. This was emphasized at the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum as well.

The authority of the periodical press of the Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces has increased in recent years, as attested by the increase in circulation of the newspaper SOVETSKIY PATRIOT and USSR DOSAAF Central Committee journals. There is improved quality and effectiveness of published articles in all directions of military-patriotic, mass defense, training and sports work.

Readers have a natural desire to consult with the press. The majority of committee and training organization heads, activists and rank-and-file members of DOSAAF constantly subscribe to the newspaper and journals and read them carefully. The activeness and interest of the readers of printed organs and literature of the USSR DOSAAF Izdatel'stvo also is shown in the fact that at readers' conferences and in their letters they make comments about the content of articles and make suggestions directed toward improving the effectiveness and ideological level of publications and toward perfecting literary forms.

Many DOSAAF committees have gained certain experience in working with the press and in propagandizing printed publications. Positive results also are produced by discussions of problem-oriented articles along various directions of ideological, organizational, training and sports work at committee sessions and activists' seminars. The heads of a number of committees and training organizations have made it a rule, after familiarizing themselves with the latest issue of the newspaper and journals, of recommending to T/O&E workers and activists what to read and use in their practical work.

The work experience of the DOSAAF Omsk Obkom and of its chairman G. Kustov merits approval in this respect. There are at least three copies of SOVETSKIY

PATRIOT for each primary organization here, there are newspaper displays in almost all major defense collectives, and SOVETSKIY PATRIOT is kept on file.

Visitors to the oblast DOSAAF club always can receive information about which newspaper and journal articles are useful in preparing for briefings and lectures on military-patriotic subjects.

When they visit raykoms and training organizations obkom chairman Kustov, his deputies and other workers always ask which articles of the newspaper and journals are studied there and what is used to improve the quality of military-patriotic indoctrination and of training and sports work.

Unfortunately it is far from everywhere that this is how matters stand with the propaganda of newspaper and journal articles. Let's take DOSAAF's Shuya Motor Vehicle and Ivanovo Joint Technical schools for comparison. Almost all instructors and production training masters at the Shuya school subscribe to and carefully read the newspaper. At the initiative of school chief Yu. Nakoryakov and his deputy for training and indoctrination work, S. Fedorov, there often is a collective discussion of newspaper and journal articles on problems of improving cadet training and indoctrination.

It is a different picture at the Ivanovo OTSh [Joint Technical School]. Many T/O&E workers here not only do not subscribe to DOSAAF publications, they do not even read them, but this does not disturb school chief V. Panov and his deputy for training and indoctrination work, V. Kravchenko. They themselves become familiar with newspaper and journal articles only on occasion, using only the files of publications subscribed to using school funds.

Matters are no better in certain DOSAAF rayon organizations of Ivanovo Oblast. For example, the Yuryevetskiy, Komsomolskiy and Puchezhskiy raykoms do almost nothing to propagandize press materials. Some primary organization committee chairmen don't know the newspaper, and you will not see even newspaper displays here.

It would appear that the conference of SOVETSKIY PATRIOT readers conducted by the editors and the DOSAAF obkom will contribute to an improvement of work with the Defense Society's press in Ivanovo Oblast. It was an active conference and the speakers told how they use newspaper articles and gave suggestions and recommendations to the editors.

There was also criticism at the conference of the obkom and a number of DOSAAF raykoms which in fact have removed themselves from propagandizing the experience of defense collectives which are competition leaders, published in the pages of the newspaper and journals.

Literature and graphic products published by USSR DOSAAF Izdatel'stvo are of great help in military-patriotic indoctrination of young people.

The DOSAAF committees of Azerbaijan, Belorussia, the Ukraine, Stavropol Kray, Volgograd, Kalinin and Ryazan oblasts and a number of others take an effective

and thoughtful approach to drawing up orders for literature and graphic products of the DOSAAF Izdatel'stvo.

One always can see new publications in the primary organizations which help the chairmen and aktiv organize military-patriotic and mass defense work. Defense Society members in these committees not only read this literature themselves, but also actively propagandize it.

Unfortunately some oblast, kray and republic DOSAAF committees do not exercise specific direction over the organization of orders for book and graphic products of USSR Izdatel'stvo. DOSAAF clubs and DOSAAF rayon, city, training and primary organizations are not used to compile orders. They do not even know what the oblast committee is ordering. As a result many of them do not have the necessary literature and visual agitation, although order blanks for training methods, propaganda and official literature and graphic products are sent promptly to all DOSAAF committees.

For example, there are more than 1,400 primary organizations in Kaliningrad Oblast, but the obkom ordered only 100 copies of the military-patriotic literature devoted to the 40th anniversary of the victory published by DOSAAF Izdatel'stvo, and not a single copy at all of the pamphlets from the "For the Youth about the Armed Forces" and "Army and Navy Routine" series. The DOSAAF Sverdlovsk Obkom also did not order a single one of the five titles of graphic aids on military-patriotic propaganda. Only four of the 22 titles--50 copies each--of literature in the series "Draftee's Library," "For the Youth about the Armed Forces" and "Army and Navy Routine" were ordered.

Similar facts also are encountered in certain other committees. They indicate an underestimation of printed products of DOSAAF Izdatel'stvo and their use in military-patriotic indoctrination and mass defense work. The committees above all are guilty here.

Much can be done in this respect by DOSAAF's small-scale wholesale stores, but some of them do not show proper initiative and promptness in delivering literature and other printed products to rayon and city committees and primary organizations. For example, unsold USSR Izdatel'stvo literature needed by committees and primary organizations sits for months in the DOSAAF Ivanovo Obkom small-scale wholesale store (director S. Vaykhanskiy). Pamphlet and book exhibits are arranged extremely rarely here. City and rayon committees take no interest in available literature.

The experience of leading DOSAAF committees and organizations persuasively shows that where constant attention is given to work with the press, then successes in the practical work of all elements of the Defense Society are more perceptible.

6904
CSO: 1801/302

DOSAAF

LETTERS TO SOVETSKIY PATRIOT EDITOR, RESPONSES

Vehicle School Motor Pool

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 18 Apr 84 p 2

[Item: "Following Criticism: 'It Depends on Order'"]

[Text] That was the title of an article published in SOVETSKIY PATRIOT on 3 March of this year. It expressed a number of critical remarks over the organization of motor pool duty in Motor Vehicle School No 2 of the city of Kuybyshev. It mentioned in particular the poor supervision over releasing the vehicles to the line, making out trip tickets and so on.

The editors received a response signed by school chief A. Bogomolov, party organization secretary V. Vereshchagin and trade union committee chairman M. Nikonorov. It was announced that the article had been discussed at a general meeting of the motor vehicle school collective, at a session of the party bureau and in the pedagogic council. The "Manual for Motor Vehicle Duty in USSR DOSAAF Organizations" was thoroughly covered with masters of production training in driving. A specific plan was drawn up to remedy the deficiencies uncovered by the spot inspection team, with special attention directed toward increasing supervision over the writing off of fuels and lubricants. The writing off of GSM [fuels and lubricants] presently is done under established norms.

Rechitsa Technical Sports Club

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 25 Apr 84 p 3

[Item: "Following Criticism: Removed from the Position"]

[Text] On 29 February of this year our newspaper published a satirical article entitled "A Weapon Against Don Quixote." It revealed serious deficiencies in the work of the Rechitsa DOSAAF Technical Sports Club of Gomel Oblast and of its chief, V. Nikolaychik.

In a response sent to the editors, V. Burmistrov, chairman of the DOSAAF Gomel Obkom, wrote that the facts noted in the satirical article had been confirmed. He also announced that Rechitsa STK [Technical Sports Club] chief V. Nikolaychik and senior bookkeeper O. Danilovich had been relieved of their positions by decree of the presidium buro of the Society's oblast committee.

Kaluga Oblast DOSAAF Organizations

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 25 Apr 84 p 3

[Item: "Following Criticism: 'A Kilometer Here, a Kilometer There...']

[Text] That was the title of the article published in SOVETSKIY PATRIOT on 12 February 1984. It told of insufficient supervision over the use and maintenance of motor vehicles in DOSAAF training organizations of Kaluga Oblast.

A response sent by DOSAAF obkom chairman A. Maslennikov states that the newspaper article was discussed at the presidium buro of the Kaluga Oblast committee and the criticism was deemed proper. I. Domanevskiy, chief of the Kaluga OTSh [Joint Technical School], and Ye. Gubenko, chief of the technical sports club, were reprimanded for the unsatisfactory technical condition of motor vehicles and poor level of supervision over their use.

6904

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MILITARY HISTORY

COL GEN SMIRNOV REVIEWS MIL'CHENKO BOOK ON LENINGRAD BATTLE

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Apr 84 p 2

[Review by Col Gen Arty A. Smirnov, deputy CIC of Air Defense Forces for combat training, of book "Zalpy nad Nevoy" [Salvos Over the Neva] by Lt Gen Arty N. Mil'chenko, Voenizdat, 1983, 256 pages]

[Text] The enemy was rushing toward Leningrad. Personnel of the 14th Rifle Regiment and 169th AAA Regiment were fighting the enemy courageously in one sector where the Hitlerites had thrown several tens of tanks into the attack. After readying the guns to fight the ground enemy, the air defense personnel fired on his tanks and guns almost point-blank and struck down the infantry from submachineguns and carbines. Battalion commander Capt Simonov and battery commander Lt Kuznetsov died the death of the brave, but the enemy did not pass.

Lt Col Rodionov, commander of the 14th NKVD [People's Commissariat of the Interior] Red Banner Rifle Regiment, wrote in a report about this fighting:

"In the most intense days of September when fascist forces were striving to penetrate to Leningrad at any cost, batteries of the 169th AAA Regiment gave decisive help in preventing the enemy's breakthrough to the city. I don't know a single instance where the air defense men wavered at a difficult moment under the enemy's onslaught."

This episode attesting to the difficult military labor of air defense personnel who repulsed enemy attacks at Leningrad is cited in a book by Lt Gen Arty N. Mil'chenko recently published in Voenizdat, entitled "Zalpy nad Nevoy."

Not very much has been written about the role of air defense personnel in the defense of Leningrad, in penetrating its blockade and in the enemy's final expulsion. Lt Gen Arty Mil'chenko succeeded in substantially supplementing this subject with new facts and details. Pages of the memoirs indicate the faith in victory of a just cause with which sentries of the air borders fought. They displayed high moral and combat qualities to the full extent: allegiance to the Communist Party cause, unbending will, courage, heroism, supreme patriotism, and readiness to perform an exploit in the name of the socialist Motherland.

The reader senses the atmosphere of the military storm from the book's first pages. The author tells about the beginning of his career in the 169th AAA Regiment, which screened air approaches to Leningrad, and about those major measures taken by the Communist Party and Soviet government in the area of national air defense. In telling about the campaign record of the famed 169th AAA Regiment and its commanders and Red Army men, the author emphasizes how important it was at that moment to have constant combat readiness in the unit and high vigilance.

Like the book's author, I had occasion to defend the sky of Leningrad in the war years. It was therefore with special attention that I read those chapters which tell about the defense of Leningrad and the screening of the Road of Life. The author truthfully tells about the difficult military labor of the AAA men. He also tells why Hitler's aviation succeeded in damaging Leningrad's industrial and other facilities in the first period of the war.

In September 1941 fascist bombers bombed the Badayevskiy depots. The fact is that our AAA men fired rather well. The problem was that the Hitlerites would throw more and more bomber squadrons into the fray without regard for losses. The fight against enemy aircraft grew considerably more complicated for us, however, for the front line now was so close that enemy aircraft already were over the city center just 2-4 minutes after take-off. Our air defense batteries practically were in the zone of so-called tactical surprise.

Relying on archive documents, the author shows what the Leningrad air defense command did to improve the combat readiness of AAA and fighter aviation units and subunits. He refutes the bourgeois falsifiers of history who maliciously distort the heroic defense of the city on the Neva.

The book traces how the combat proficiency of air defense personnel and pilots strengthened and grew from day to day despite the very serious blockade conditions. Enemy aviation was becoming more and more exhausted in the strenuous fight against our air defense.

The Hitlerites were preparing Operation Eisstoss ("Ice Attack") in great secrecy. The enemy intended to destroy warships of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet frozen into the ice of the Neva, but air defense personnel operating jointly with navymen disrupted the enemy plans. Operation Eisstoss failed.

The author writes very warmly about the service of Komsomol girls in the Air Defense Forces. After brief training and after taking the military oath they would be sent to the antiaircraft batteries, searchlight stations, barrage balloon subunits and to posts for aerial reconnaissance and radar detection of the enemy. They experienced a great deal in the long months of the blockade but displayed determination and staunchness and in a short time mastered military specialties and courageously fought the enemy.

Few know that the Hitlerites were fostering an idea of attacking Leningrad with new attack weapons--the V-1. This is a little-known page of the war which has not been covered and goes back to the summer and fall of 1944. It

is to the author's credit (by that time already a staff officer of the Leningrad Air Defense Army) that he was able to recreate from bits and pieces those practical steps taken by the Soviet command to counter the possible combat use of new secret air attack weapons, the V-1 and V-2.

Personnel of the Leningrad Air Defense Army fought courageously and bravely. The crushing defeat of the enemy in Karelia and the successful Tallinn offensive operation and Moensund landing operation buried the Hitlerites' hopes once and for all on the possibility of delivering V-weapon attacks against Leningrad.

The author takes his recollections up to 1980, telling in the chapter "Constant Combat Readiness" about his duty in the postwar period. Much space is devoted here to combat training and daily life of personnel of the Moscow Air Defense District, the staff of which Lt Gen Arty Mil'chenko headed for many years.

There is no doubt that our soldiers and the predraft-age youth who are to take their places at the missile system control panels and in the cockpits of interceptor aircraft, as well as people of the older generations, will read Mil'chenko's war memoirs with interest. It would seem that the book will be of some help both to commanders and political officers in bringing up the personnel in a spirit of Soviet patriotism and utter dedication to the cause of the Leninist party and our socialist Motherland.

6904

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AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET TROOPS PERFORM INTERNATIONAL DUTY IN AFGHANISTAN

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 4, Feb 84 pp 10-14

[Article by Capt 2nd Rank L. Yakutin, SOVETSKIY VOIN special correspondent: "Letters from Afghanistan"]

[Text] The Songs of Boris Kondakov

At the hour when the stars appear in the sky, as a rule, an abatement of tension is sensed in the subunits. But vigilance does not desert the men of the motorized infantry: those assigned to do so stand their posts, and the others rest in the Lenin rooms and in their comfortable tents. And from there one can sometimes hear thoughtful, unhurried talk about a paternal home, sometimes a song. It drifts above a grim environment. And in whatever language the song is sung, it is close and comprehensible to fighting men of various nationalities. Because the song is about areas dear to the heart, about fiancées, about all that is dear to soldiers.

Boris Fedorovich Kondakov likes such moments of seeming idleness. From his years of service, the experienced political worker has become convinced that reasonable relaxation draws fighting men together in spirit and inspires good feelings in them.

Boris Fedorovich has no patience, however, with certain "compositions"--those that the "dandies" from the city gateways bring into the army. There is always something alien about such a repertoire in a collective of fighting men. Here, far from the Motherland, it is simply insulting. And it is not surprising that it does not take root among the soldiers, although any sprightly lad can be so bold as to favor his fellow servicemen with a selection of mournful phrases, shouting them beneath the deafening strumming of a guitar.

That evening, in returning to the officers' quarters, Boris Fedorovich made a wry face. The sounds of such a performance had reached his ears. Kondakov would have liked to scold the "soloist," but restrained himself. One can accomplish nothing with reproaches here. Unnoticed by anyone, Kondakov stood behind the small group of listeners.

Scarcely had the performer fallen silent that the officer pushed his way forward and asked for the guitar.

"Let's sing together," he appealed to the soldiers. "I see that when one is having a good time, the rest are in low spirits. Well, what shall we start with?"

"With 'Birch Wine'."

At first shyly, then with more and more confidence, the voices joined in. The singers became animated and began to suggest songs:

"'Moscow Nights,' Comrade Lt Col...."

Boris Fedorovich was the accompanist. It was if there had been no alienation or sadness.

"Comrade Lt Col, sing something of your own. Do you remember what you composed during your studies?"

"Retreat will sound soon. Oh, all right. Someone run get me my accordion."

Boris Fedorovich ran through a march, then started singing. It pleased him when various voices joined in friendly chorus:

"A young lad from the Urals,
But perhaps from Baykal,
A private in the Guards,
Marched to defend
A city on the Volga
And the fortress of Brest."

The nameless private in the Guards became to some degree the embodiment of the defender of the Motherland for everyone singing. Called up from different republics, they pronounced the last words like their own oath:

"If the Fatherland orders,
He again will fall into the ranks--
The lad from the Urals,
But perhaps from Baykal,
A private in the Guards."

It seemed that the song flowed out to the gloomy rocks that crowded around the little cantonment of the men of the motorized infantry, to the stars that illuminated with their cold light the restless land of Afghanistan, and first of all flew across the mountains to their native areas. Here in the units and subunits of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, they think of home especially often, and are gladdened by news of the labor successes of their fellow-countrymen. In their dreams they see their paternal home. This aspiration of the soldiers is close to the heart of Kondakov the political worker. And he sings to the soldiers about the Motherland. He himself composed the simple but soul-stirring words and the melody for them:

"Many songs have been sung about your birches,
My Russia, warmed by goodness.
In spring you are green, in autumn golden.
In summer multi-colored, white in winter.

Almost every song is born from some happening in the author's life, is evoked by events, and if you like, is a distinctive line in his service record. From the songs of Boris Fedorovich, one can trace his fate, his development as an officer.

1968. The recent graduate of the Chelyabinski Engineering Automobile School is transferred from unit to political work, and is appointed deputy commander of an automobile company for the political unit. The young officer did not like the fact that the drivers marched in formation without a song that would teach them love for the combat profession, for technology, and for the Transbaykal region, where they were serving.

And soon, to the envy of other subunits, the automobile company was loudly singing its own marching song, which contained such words as:

"There are roads in the Transbaykal region
And stars in the sky at night.
Sometimes in winter
Blizzards blanket the region,
But the soldiers of the automobile company
Take their powerful vehicles everywhere
As if nothing has happened."

Boris Fedorovich remembers with a smile.

"When we were learning the song, the company commander had just been in the hospital. He came to the unit and saw how his subordinates were smartly marching to the song, and was deeply touched. Now, said he, we will storm the line of excellent company without fail. We did it."

Soon Kondakov was moved to a higher position and left for another garrison. What gladdened the young political workers there was the fortitude of the men. It seemed that obstacles did not tire them, but on the contrary strengthened them, inspiring a wish to do more, better. Those who retired into the reserve or were transferred to other places, even very good ones, long wrote to their comrades, recalling with warmth their beloved corner of the Transbaykal region. And Boris Fedorovich then composed a song about them.

But for the time being, he has no songs about how Soviet fighting men are fulfilling their international duty in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. "There will be such songs," Lt Col Kondakov assures us. "Of course there will."

The Tent of Combat Glory

In the units and subunits of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, on everything there is the stamp of

spartan modesty inherent to campaign life. The sentry's quarters, for example, are an ordinary tent. The Lenin rooms are also in tents.... One of the tents of the tankmen looks more impressive and roomy than the others. Over its entrance is the nameplate "Room of Combat Glory."

Here are assembled the regiment's relics, which reveal its heroic history and glorious traditions. By the way, to collect exhibits, bring them here, and prepare the stands when there is not a single superfluous piece of plywood or sheet of paper at hand is much more difficult than at home. When stepping over the threshold of the tent, I wondered whether the political workers had managed to put together an interesting exposition and what would be its emotional force.

The first exhibit was a chart of the combat route of the unit, with a brief history in dates and laconic recollections of important stages. This unit was born during the war, and saw its first combat at Stalingrad. It distinguished itself in the famous tank battle at Prokhorovka, stormed Berlin, and liberated Prague.

From a front-line photograph gazes a resolute man who had already been successful in battle and merited decorations: Guards Col V. Karpov, the first commander of the unit. His face shows his preoccupation and apparent impatience: he would rather be in a skirmish with the invaders.

Reproductions, photographs, and documents consistently and persuasively speak of the tankmen's bravery in battles and their selfless loyalty to their duty. Guards Lieutenant Nazip Khazipov and Leonid Tatarinov are Heroes of the Soviet Union. The present-day soldiers of the unit pronounced their names with pride, competing for the right to shoot and drive their combat vehicles behind the Heroes.

Next to the stands are documents that bear witness to the deeds of the present-day fighting men who are expanding its glorious combat traditions with their martial endeavors.

Afghan citizens also visit the room of combat glory.

Here is one of their entries in the book of comments:

"Dear Comrades,

Having visited your museum, we experienced a genuine feeling of pride in our friends. We have again been convinced who are our enemies and who are our friends. We take pride in your combat glory. We will strengthen our friendship. We will take our example from you, will learn to conduct party work and to defend our Motherland from you.

Thank you for your martial endeavors and your internationalism. The people of Afghanistan will remember your heroic deed forever.

Long live Soviet-Afghan friendship!

Major Azis, commander of an aviation regiment of the armed forces of the People's Republic of Afghanistan

How much sincere warmth and how many instructively sage examples of courage the campaign room of combat glory has absorbed! How many men have left it in trembling agitation, in noble resolution to be equal to its heroes and to expand the glorious traditions of this unit.

That is why the initiative and diligence of those who bit by bit collected the exhibits, made the photocopies, set up the stands, wrote, and drew the officers V. Beskhlebnyy and G. Atamanov and Guards private S. Matveyev, deserve the highest praise.

An Afghan Day Among the Medics

The wilderness is almost lifeless. A native plough has never broken furrows here: it is solid rock. And there has been no reason to plough. There is no water.

But on this site a Soviet military hospital has been set up. And the local inhabitants naturally welcome the presence of our medical men. From time immemorial, the peasants and the nomads have dreamed of having just one doctor for the whole district, and here there is every kind of specialist, all highly qualified. The chief and surprising thing is that treatment is free. No one is refused. And people come here from many versts distance.

The elderly Pushtun Makhomad Nadir is in the office of Lt Col of the Medical Service Elizarov. With tears in his eyes, he is thanking him for having cured his son.

"The boy had a compound fracture of the leg," explained Stanislav Ivanovich.

Makhomad Nadir also warmly thanked him for healing his wife and daughter, and spoke with admiration of doctors Tat'yana Mikhaylovna Kuznetsova and Maj A. Lazarenko.

It was unusual to hear how the patients and their relatives studiously pronounced the Russian first names and surnames of those who healed them of their ailments. Most often of all was heard:

"Thank you, Anatoliy Nilolayevich Fat'yanov and Valentin Nikolayevich Nikitin....

"Tashakur (thank you), Vladimir Petrovich Zyryanov and Vladimir Borisovich Bartinskiy."

The native Yermamat has been treated at the hospital many times. And now he has come from a remote settlement where he leads a detachment of malishya, volunteer defenders of the revolution. He knows that here they will restore his health and give him medicine. From time immemorial, there has been nothing like this on Afghan soil. The ignorant mullahs and quacks only robbed the people.

The hospital's assignment is to treat Soviet fighting men. But the Afghans are absolutely certain of not being refused a doctor's help. And so great is the stream of patients that the high command has decided to establish a special day for receiving them--Friday. Those who need emergency treatment also receive it at any time.

The patients have rapidly become accustomed to their Fridays. The explanatory work carried out by the local authorities and the activists has also aided in this. Now on that day of the week there are crowds of men, women, and children on the hospital grounds. There is a line for the therapist, for the stomatologist, for the surgeon. No noise, no fuss.

The Afghans see how thoughtful the Soviet medics are, how sincere in their desire to help every sick person. Rumors of the miracles wrought by the Russian doctors fill the district. But there are no miracles. There are shining examples of genuine Soviet humanism, of the fulfillment of international duty, and there is the high professional training of the specialists. It is possible that this heals not only physical ailments, but also aids the spiritual and political outlook of many people. It helps them rid themselves of the superstitions and traditional hostility toward foreigners propagated by the mullahs for centuries.

Soviet medics visit patients even in remote settlements. Many citizens know the names of the officers N. Posmet'yev, V. Lyutoyev, I. Voynitskiy, S. Yepreyev, S. Mansurov, and R. Akhsanov.

They have saved Afghans from perishing by risking their lives many times. In violation of ancient principles, they run not to the mullahs or to Tabib in case of trouble, but to the Soviet doctors.

So the peasants behaved when the dushmans poisoned the water in the well. Dozens of people in the village could have perished. Captains of the Medical Service V. Beshpal'ko and V. Nikishin and Lieutenant of the Medical Service S. Pavlov saved them.

Or take another example. Enemies tortured the inhabitants of a village. Many natives were severely beaten with whips. Lieutenant of the Medical Service A. Dolmanov and doctor's assistant A. Dzhaifarov spent all night bandaging the wounded and bringing those beaten back to their senses.

An act of vandalism by enemies of the April Revolution deeply shocked the inhabitants of a village located at the foot of Mt Khadzhisarbur. Bandits mined the path along which they drive their cattle. In the morning, several boys were pasturing the sheep and set off a mine. The Afghans brought the wounded to one of the Soviet units. Thanks to the efforts of the medical personnel, they managed to save them all.

It appears that for our medics serving with the limited contingent of Soviet forces in the People's Republic of Afghanistan, not only Friday is Afghan day. Any day of the week, any hour of the day, they are ready to do their duty.

Hot Bread

In everyday parlance, staff officers laconically refer to this small Soviet garrison on Afghan soil as a "post." Sometimes, perhaps for greater definition, as a "support post." And they add an ordinal number, so as not to confuse it with others. And then they add the commander's surname: "Sr Lt Kozich's post."

Be that as it may, they are talking about fighting men whose duty is to safeguard, together with fighting men of the People's Republic of Afghanistan, the security of the project placed in their protection.

The post in the given situation is not a fortress, is not a comfortable cantonment where everyone rises with calculation by the year and by the decade. However, the fighting men have worked hard to establish elementary conditions for a vigilant and dependable service and life in the uncomfortable wilderness. They have received and concealed technical equipment. They have taken care to ensure that there is enough water. They are especially proud that each morning they eat fresh bread straight from the oven. Hot bread in the stern wilderness!

Several men here have mastered the ancient profession of baker. And Private Dadadzhanov is the most skillful of all.

"Everything is simple," explains Tolibdzhan. "At night I put the dough in a warm place. As soon as I get up, I put it into forms...."

They made the stove themselves. The cunning of soldiers aided them, and it is not necessary to deliver bread to the post from the unit. And the ruddy, magnificent loaves are better than those that get cold on the road.

Moreover, at the post not only the bread is hot. Such are found here every day: service that requires a special vigilance and personal responsibility from everyone, exercises that inspire the fighting men to creative seeking, sharpness, initiative, and effort. And it was as though the night, saturated by parentheses, was disquieting; after a short rest, the indispensable training took place in the afternoon. According to schedule, in conformity with the program of combat training. Withdrawal behind the weapons is also an obligatory procedure.

The neighboring post is also a remote "point" on the edge of a rocky plateau, at the foot of a mountain. Here everything is also in accordance with campaign procedures, done by soldiers' hands. Here are the sleeping quarters. The usual rows of beds, precisely made. The residence, of course, is temporary. But the "barracks" retain the warmth that issues from the iron stove well and defend against the winds. In one of the "compartments," a Lenin room has been set up. Here there is a class, a political map of the world, a hand-drawn diagram, charts--on the table a transistor.

Next to the sleeping quarters is the messhall. Also a temporary building. Food is also prepared here.

There were few soldiers at the support post. Some were on duty, some at the bath-house--it was the unit's sanitary day.

They built the bath-house themselves--it is small, for five or six men, but surprisingly hot, with an inexhaustible supply of hot water and steam. The soldiers have squared off the steep slope of the mountain, smoothed it, constructed a stone wall, and piled up a barrel for water. In a word, they have displayed sharpness and good management. Now after the hot days, there is somewhere to get rid of weariness, to wash one's uniforms, and when necessary also one's bed linen. What can one say here? Well done!

What the River Sings About

The mountain stream, rushing from the depths of the ravine into the valley, suddenly slows its flight. As if it were lost in admiration of the tent cantonment of the subunit of Soviet sappers, of their industriousness, of their purely military foresight in evaluation of the locality.

The river here seems to be whispering something on confidence or singing quietly, movingly composing its melodies from impressions of everyday events. Of those that, in accordance with the will of history, are writing with golden lines in the treasure house of socialist internationalism, in the noble chronicle of friendly contacts of the Soviet and Afghan peoples.

The sappers have many feats to their credits. How many dushman mines they have removed at the natives' request from roads and paths, how many explosive charges they have disarmed, how many bridges destroyed by the enemy they have rebuilt!

At the moment of danger, the inhabitants of the whole district appeal to the sappers: "Help!" And almost every time this help compels the fighting men to display their self-control and sharpness, and also to risk their lives.

In one of the thickly settled quarters of the ancient city, bandits one night placed a mine in the public part of the street. It was possible, of course, to move the population away and destroy the mine on the spot. But Guards Jr Sgt Sergey Puchinin, having received the risky assignment, well understood that this would lead to damage. All around were mud-walled cottages and old houses.

The sapper cautiously approached the mine. At that same moment, a shot rang out. Fortunately, the bullet only kicked up a small cloud of dust near the fighting man.

What was he to do? Open fire on an unseen rifleman hiding somewhere in the chaotic crowd of buildings? But innocent people would suffer. Sergey again thought of destroying the accursed mine on the spot. But the Soviet sapper could not allow himself even the accidental death of the peaceful inhabitants.

Looking around, he noticed a hollow. It was shallow and dusty, but from it the mine was literally within an arm's reach. But scarcely had he stretched out his arm than the enemy opened fire. For all that, he disarmed the mine.

Music is not necessary for interlinear translation. Explanations or announcements regarding a soldier's deeds are also not necessary. It speaks for itself. It is true that sometimes a meteor takes fire, attracting attention to itself. Others are not outwardly brilliant, but concentrate on everyday labor, genuine mastery, and the greatest strength of spirit. Guards Jr Sgt Gennadiy Ul'yanov expended much labor in teaching a dog named Dina the art of searching out and finding mines, in addition to carrying out his other service obligations. These plastic-explosive mines are made by Italian, American, and other firms, and are impossible to discover with the aid of mine detectors.

Gennadiy Ul'yanov has a rule: he works four hours a day with his dog. These lessons have yielded fruit. Dina has found eight mines. The guardsman disarmed them all. How much trouble and misfortune these foreign "presents" could have brought the Afghan people.

Dik, a powerful and ferocious dog, the charge of Guards Pvt Sergey Kashlov, has found four mines placed on the roads by the enemy. Four mines, four mysteries. Genuine mastery was required of Kashlov and his friends to disarm them.

Fighting men do not seek glory, do not expect words of thanks from local residents. Glory finds them itself. As for the people's gratitude, do not count in how many hearts it resides. One can only cite, in confirmation of what has been said: Comrade Ratmir, the governor, and Comrade Osot, the secretary of the provincial committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, sincerely thanked the Soviet fighting men in the name of the population for their help, for their bravery and courage in the execution of their international duty. And here, on Afghan soil, they quite often live with Soviet fighting men at the risk of their lives. In saving peaceful inhabitants from dushman fire, Guards Jr Sgt Yuriy Fazlulin, commander of a sapper section, was twice wounded.

"Outside your native land, carry high the honor and dignity of the Soviet fighting man!" This appeal can be read in almost all the garrisons of the limited contingent of our forces in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. In the sappers' cantonment, which is small and situated on the bank of the river, it is also in a prominent place.

The subunit's personnel, on their own, with a feeling of professional pride, grasped it. The fighting men have transformed a wilderness sown with rocks into a real oasis. They have laid out streets, planted trees and roses. On the square in front of headquarters, they have placed a bust of V. I. Lenin.

For courage and heroism displayed in rendering international aid to the fighting men of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Sgts D. Akhunov and B. Asadov, Guards Jr Sgts P. Prokopchuk, Yu. Fazlulin, and Kh. Khalilov; Guards Pvts Yu. Zamyatin, A. Bugay, A. Snetko, and others have been awarded government decorations.

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